

# OUTLOOK

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AUTUMN/WINTER 1996

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*Science Centre*

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*Dale Spender*

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*New Deans*

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*Alumni Profiles*

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## From the President...

Since its launch in mid-1992, the Alumni Association continues to develop by providing past students with the opportunity to renew old acquaintances and to expand their social and professional networks. It is beginning to be more involved in the affairs of the University.

The membership now is about 550, with five campus-based chapters in place. Others are forming outside Wollongong, eg Shoalhaven, Melbourne, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

The Alumni Office is now part of the Division of External Relations, whose Director is **Eric Meadows**. This gives the Alumni Office closer links with senior management and it is a further step towards the overall internationalisation of the University. The personal network which is built around our international graduates provides our University with a very special opportunity to be a part of the development of a number of countries as well as our own.



At the AGM on 9 March, the following officers were elected:

<i>President</i>	Ruth Procter
<i>Vice-President</i>	Allan Petersen
<i>Secretary</i>	Harry Alla
<i>Treasurer</i>	Ron Perrin

We welcome **Harry Alla** as Secretary and **Kerrie Christian** as the University Council nominee.

Sincere thanks go to Wendy Raikes, our out-going Secretary, and to Win Ward, the former University Council nominee. Their contributions were invaluable.

The guest speaker at the AGM was Dr Dale Spender AM, well-known researcher, writer, editor, broadcaster and teacher. She and her sister Lynne were both awarded Master of Arts degrees in 1972 and were the first female masters graduates. Dale spoke about the implications of the Internet and information technology in society (see article on page 8).

In this edition of The Outlook, you will enjoy a taste of an enormously rich variety of people, the vast opportunities and the innumerable activities the University of Wollongong embraces. You can share the stories of some alumni and find details of the various chapters that you can join.

Note the various scholarships and awards available from some of the chapters. There are also grants available to financial members of the Alumni Association, awarded from 12% of the previous year's membership fees. So, you can see the benefits increase with your financial involvement.

Juliet Richardson, our Alumni Executive Officer, would be delighted to help you become involved in whatever way you wish. It's a very rewarding experience. Don't hesitate to contact her or Antoinette Matarranz in the Alumni Office.

**Ruth Procter**  
President, Alumni Association

## From the Editor...

This year has proved to be even busier than most so far, with several alumni get-togethers being held at various locations both in or near Wollongong and overseas, and with the chapters all involved in different projects.

One of the forthcoming highlights is the joint Engineering/Commerce dinner/dance to be held on Saturday, 27 July at the City Pacific Hotel in Wollongong. All alumni are welcome to come along and hear guest speaker, Bob Menzies talk about 'The Olympic Experience'. There'll be good food and music too, so it should be an excellent evening.

Applications are now being called for the Alumni Association Grants for 1996. Full details of these are given on page 23, so if you're eligible, why not apply? The closing date is 31 July and the forms can be obtained from the Alumni Office.



A number of alumni have made enquiries about gaining access to the Internet. This is a benefit which we are very keen to offer to our financial members, and negotiations to this end are currently under way through staff of the University's Information

Technology Services.

At this stage we cannot make an announcement, but keep reading The Outlook as we hope to have all the details for the next issue. You are welcome to register your name with the Alumni Office as having an interest in accessing the Internet, and then we can contact you as soon as a deal is firmed up.

Any suggestions as to other membership benefits which would interest you are always welcome. Please tell us and we'll see what we can do.

You may have noticed a difference in the magazine's style with this issue. The new

front cover design is intended to bring The Outlook in line with other University publications by making use of the corporate style. We hope that the inside layout is pleasing to the eye and comfortable to read. Your comments would be appreciated.

The Alumni Office will be short-staffed during June and July, as I shall be away. My colleague, Antoinette Matarranz, will be looking after alumni matters in my absence. She works part-time and is best contacted in the mornings on (042) 21 3169.

I'll talk to you again the other side of winter! Perhaps I may see some of you on Open Day (Sunday, 25 August) - the Alumni Association table will be located with the Campus Alumni bookfair in the Keira Cafe (ground floor of the McKinnon Building).

**Juliet Richardson**  
Alumni Executive Officer & Editor

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University of Wollongong

FRONT COVER: Whose bubble will win? Kevin (8), Tia (7) and friends from Barrack Heights Primary School debate the behaviour of bubbles in silicone oil at the University's Science Centre. See article on page 4.



## GRAND PLANS AT SCIENCE CENTRE

**The University of Wollongong Science Centre began as a dream to present science using hands-on interactive displays to help demystify the concepts of science and technology. Eight years on the dream is real with the Centre's reputation firmly established.**

There is a philosophy shared with Science Centres worldwide:

*I hear, I forget  
I see, I remember  
I do, I understand*

Such a philosophy is of course consistent with the University Science Centre's mission: 'To improve the science literacy of the community through the provision of hands-on experiences in an environment

was poor: plumbing and wiring needed replacing, asbestos had to be removed and the building structure itself was in need of extensive repair. Yet with the help of many volunteers these hurdles were overcome.

The task of acquiring exhibits was next on the agenda.

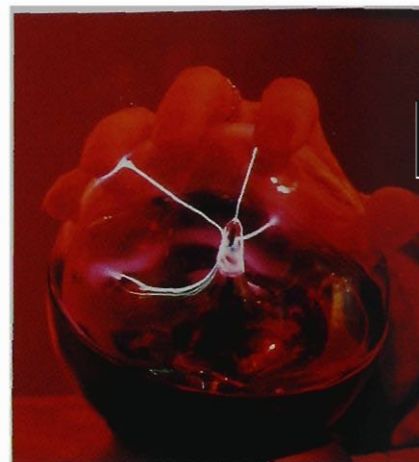
Questacon in Canberra assisted by donating many hands-on exhibits when it moved to new premises in 1988 to become the National Science and Technology Centre. The same year Brisbane enjoyed Expo 88, after which staff from the Centre succeeded in obtaining a huge space shuttle, some carpet and many other materials.

Years of planning came to fruition in 1989 with the opening of the University of Wollongong Science Centre by the then Science Minister, The Hon Barry Jones MP. The dream was finally coming true. The vision: 'To be Australia's most innovative and exciting hands-on Science and Technology Centre' was achievable.

### Planetarium added

With the aid of leading planetarium manufacturer, Carl Zeiss, a high quality star projector was acquired second-hand from the Zoological Gardens in Antwerp, Belgium. An interim Planetarium was built at the Centre and officially opened in April 1994 by the Eureka Prize winner, the late Dr David Allen.

Images of the heavens are projected on the ceiling as part of a 30-minute three dimensional theatre presentation. Even though it is only an interim facility, the 25-seat theatre runs more



'Hands on' plasma

shows daily than almost any other Planetarium in the world, and is clearly running at maximum capacity.

### Exhibits

To date all 120 hands-on exhibits have been acquired by sponsorship and in-kind support, mostly from local business and industry. Many of the exhibits are built as part of innovative training programs in local industry, and their combined value is now conservatively estimated at over \$1m.

The Centre is constantly revising the displays. Finding the right exhibit mix to serve the community is an ongoing task. The 120 exhibits have been specifically designed with the novice scientist in mind. The visual effect, ease of use and science behind them, all contribute to exploration of science in a fun way for every age and background.

### Looking ahead

The Centre's temporary accommodation, however, is a significant problem. Attendance has climbed steadily in the past five years, with visits by the public and school groups now reaching practical limits set by the building capacity. The old building is not only inadequate in size, but is



Students from Barrack Heights Primary School exploring electricity.

which is both educational and entertaining'.

Indeed it can be argued that this mission has already well and truly been accomplished, although the Science Centre is by no means content to rest on its laurels. But first let us recap its origins.

### How it began

With encouragement from the then University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ken McKinnon, an old dilapidated hostel building on the East Campus was chosen to house an interim Science Centre. The condition of the building

increasingly difficult to maintain. Its external appearance is also a major impediment to its credibility as a high tech tourist attraction.

To address these problems the Centre is planning a permanent custom-built Centre. An estimated \$7.8m is required to bring this project to completion.

### Community support

The Science Centre is one of the most outstanding examples of the University of Wollongong's involvement with the community. In return the community has been equally generous in its support for the Centre. The breadth of this support is indicated by the composition of its Board, with members from tourism, education and industry as well as from six faculties of the University: Science, Engineering, Informatics, Education and Health and Behavioural Sciences.

Operating as a self-supporting unit, the strong community support for the Centre is critical since the ultimate source of funding for exhibitions is via sponsorship and donations.

Every year the Centre's attendance continues to rise, and already in 1996 there has been an increase of more than 25% over the same quarter last year. With its staff of more than 30 part-time 'explainers' and only three full-time staff, the Centre now has an annual attendance which is expected to approach 40,000 this year.

### Astronomical Centre

Although every year has seen innovations, 1996 is a year full of excitement for the

Centre, with four major projects in progress.

One of these is a new Astronomical Centre. This will comprise a 60-seat Planetarium Theatre, complete with laser light shows that will enrapture the audience and an Observatory which can show the real skies: the sun by day and the stars by night.



A hair-raising experience on the Science Centre's Van de Graaff static electricity generator. Photo courtesy of the Illawarra Mercury.

Recent market research has shown that astronomy is one of the most popular drawcards at the Science Centre. It captures people's imagination and yet is difficult to teach in a classroom environment. A Planetarium in conjunction with an Observatory is a most powerful tool for demonstrating the wonders of the universe.

Planetariums require more than just a star projector. They are audiovisual theatres

where other aids, such as slide projectors, laser disc players, and computers for enhancing and controlling the images, work together to make the scenes seem real and live.

A \$200,000 grant from the Regional Tourism Development Program for the infrastructure of an exciting new 60-seat planetarium theatre was secured in 1995,

with the help of Tourism Wollongong and The Hon Stephen Martin MP. This grant will assist in the planning, development and building of the new Planetarium, which will be situated along the eastern side of the existing Science Centre building.

The Science Centre is open seven days a week and Friday evenings for star gazers. Telescopes are set on interesting aspects of the night

sky, weather permitting. Recently, for example, it was possible to see the Russian Mir Space station and the American space shuttle travel together across the sky. Visitors can view craters on the moon, the rings of Saturn, the stars and the planets.

An exciting new Observatory is to be incorporated as an integral part of the Astronomical Centre. The University's largest telescope and dome, previously situated on the Picton Road west of the escarpment, has recently been taken by Coleman Transport to BHP Slab and Plate's Apprentice Training Workshop for repair and reconditioning, as part of a community service project.

When this project is completed, visitors will be able to see the sun in the daytime and stars at night. Whole classes of students will even be able to view the sky together.

### Outreach program

Science on the Move is another project intended to expand the Centre beyond its walls, taking science shows and exhibits to schools in outlying regions. Up to 800 children a week attend the Centre as part of the science education school program. Limits are imposed by the present facilities, such as the small demonstration theatre which can only seat 25.

The concept used by many science and technology centres around the world to reach more children is to take science to the people. All that is required is a vehicle large enough to house the Centre's portable demonstrations and two highly trained staff.

The Centre is in the advanced stages of developing its

Science on the Move program. Liquid nitrogen and chemistry shows have already been developed and tested with resounding success. New shows are about to be developed with the help of a visiting show producer from Techniquet, a science centre in Cardiff, Wales, who has extensive experience in show production, design and delivery.

Schools that were previously disadvantaged by costs and the loss of class time associated with travel will then have the opportunity to see and experience the Science Centre's exciting presentations in their own school. Once a vehicle is obtained, Science on the Move will be travelling around the Illawarra and beyond.

### Dinosaur project

In addition to all this, the Science Centre is looking at acquiring a Russian Tarbosaurus Bataar-Tyrannosaurus skeleton as a centrepiece for a life sciences exhibit. A campaign to 'Buy-a-Bone and Build-a-Dinosaur' was released in May.

This is an adventurous and exciting program to build awareness in the community and to acquire a skeleton of one of the most ferocious carnivores of all time. Science Centre staff have searched the world looking for an appropriate dinosaur and were lucky enough to find one in Australia that suited the requirements.

Acquisition of this dinosaur skeleton will be by sponsorship. The 'Buy-a-Bone and Build-a-Dinosaur' campaign started recently as a community-funded project.

This 6.6 metre skeleton has 126 bones and 60 teeth which have been broken down into dollar values. For example, teeth are worth \$60, vertebrae \$200, upper skull \$5,000 and so on, and all donations are tax deductible. An impressive skull of the Tarbosaurus has been loaned to the Centre for the duration of the campaign.

The dinosaur will be the centrepiece of an exhibition showing the diversity of life on earth. Microscopic views of tiny living organisms will show them in contrast to the massive dinosaur, and a remote camera system will allow visitors to spy on colonies of other unsuspecting creatures. The formation of coal from ancient plants, the original lifeblood of the Illawarra, will give this exhibition a local flavour.

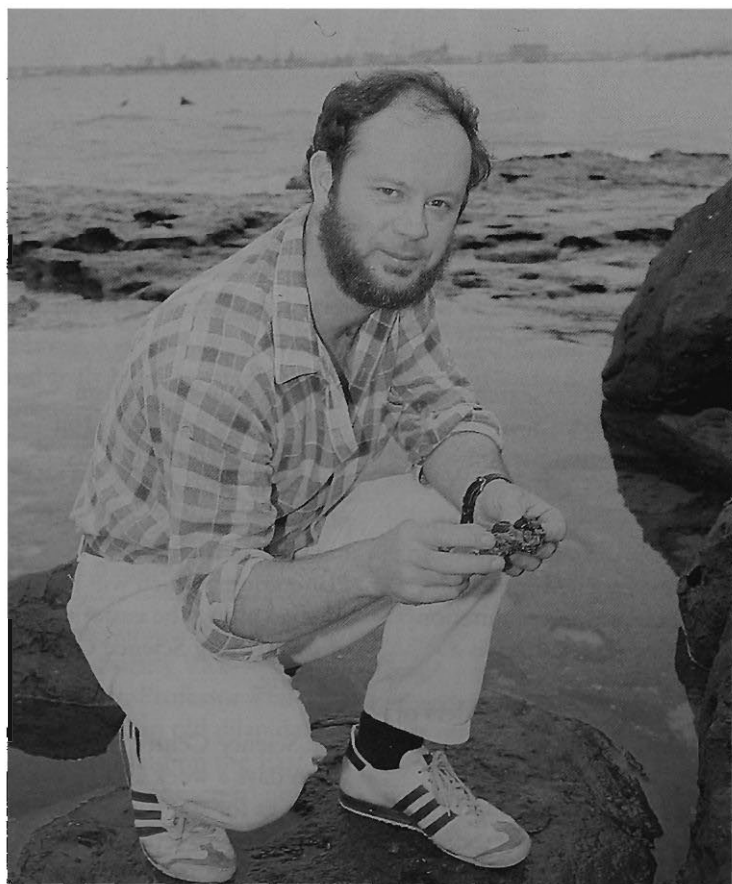
### Future potential

The Science Centre has come a long way since its inception. The opportunity clearly exists for it to become a major tourist attraction and educational centre for the Illawarra. Although these current exciting projects will carry the Centre into a new phase of activity, only a major new building will ultimately allow the Centre to grow to its true potential and offer the full range of science and technology activities necessary to help people understand the world around them.

This true potential of the Science Centre can be achieved if the history of support from government, the University, and from business and the community continues. In the meantime, 1996 is a most challenging and progressive year.

## FLORA AND FAUNA RESEARCH

**The Australian Flora and Fauna Research Centre was established during the first round of research programs in 1989, as part of the University's research management plan.**



Associate Professor David Ayre collecting intertidal sea anemones for genetic analyses.

Since then the Centre has been building its research strengths, collaborations, training of research students and interactions with industry and the community.

Its focus is fundamental research and postgraduate training in many aspects of Australian flora and fauna, from the physiology and evolution of warm-bloodedness in mammals, to the insect and vertebrate biodiversity of the northern New South Wales forests.

Although the research interests and expertise of members of the Centre span marine biology, physiology, and plant and animal ecology, they share a central interest in ecological and evolutionary processes that are common to many ecosystems.



## Research by staff

There are many highlights amongst the Centre's activities since its establishment. One is the major contributions to textbook publications in ecology. David Ayre contributed a chapter in a new book on Australian marine ecology entitled *Coastal*

seasons of the year, a feature of fire that has been neglected in research.

## Postgraduates' success

Another highlight is the success the Centre has had in training postgraduate research students. Sue Carthew studied pollination of native plants by marsupials (such as

might be the ecological consequences of removing weeds such as bitou bush using herbicides. Justine Cox has been working with BHP, studying the potential of mixtures of various iron-making waste products to act as a soil and support good growth of plants.

Research success by the 'old hands' in the Centre has been accompanied by new appointments, new research fellows and new postgraduate students. Drs Kris French, Lou Rodgers and Sharon Robinson have brought with them expertise in insect biodiversity, plant-animal interactions (especially seed dispersal) and photosynthesis.

The Environmental Research Institute (to which this Centre belongs), is funding Dr Todd Minchinton as a postdoctoral fellow. He is looking at *Disturbance and Recovery of Mangrove Communities*.

With all this activity, it is clear that the flora and fauna of the Illawarra will be studied in great depth over the next few years!



Wollongong PhD graduate, Sue Carthew, who studied mammals as pollinators.

completing his PhD just last year, Siegy Krauss won an ARC postdoctoral fellowship to pursue his research interests at the ANU.

## Current students

The current 'crop' of students reflects our increasing links with industry. Mick Gregory and Martine Jones are both working on PhD projects in collaboration with Wollongong City Council, investigating the impacts of urbanisation in catchments on the stream fauna.

Carl Gosper is working in collaboration with researchers at NSW Agriculture and Public Works to find out what

Professor Rob Whelan shows his recent book, *The Ecology of Fire*, together with a variety of seeds. Photo courtesy of The Advertiser.



A brown antechinus visits a banksia.

*Marine Ecology of Temperate Australia*. David's contribution focused on *The Genetics of Marine Populations*.

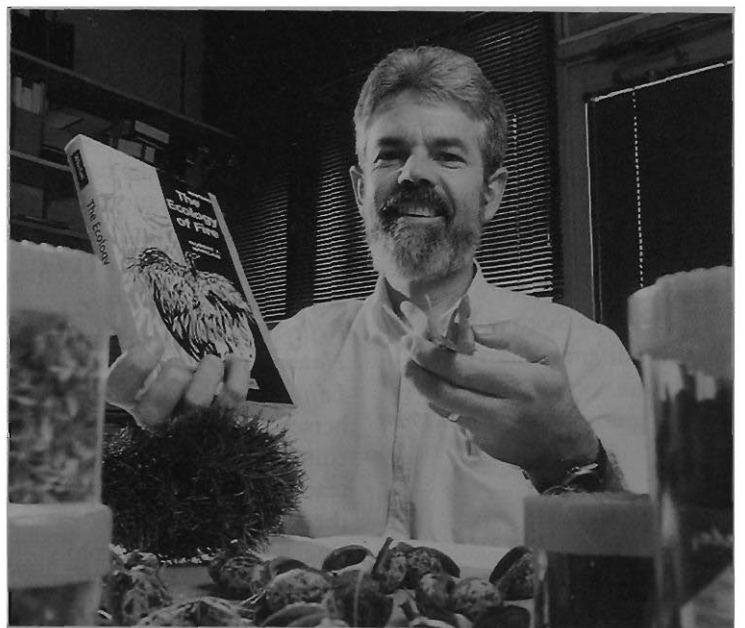
In addition, Rob Whelan's book entitled *The Ecology of Fire* was published by Cambridge University Press in the last year. This book reviews the ecological effects of fire in many parts of the world, and points to some general principles which span continents.

Both of these books are leading on to important current research work. David Ayre has a major ARC grant to study *Hybridisation in Corals*. Rob Whelan is in the middle of a fire experiment designed to test the ecological effects of burning in different

sugar gliders and antechinus) and completed her PhD in 1991. She has recently been promoted to senior lecturer at the University of Adelaide.

Ross Goldingay obtained his PhD on the ecology of the endangered yellow-bellied glider in 1992. After a postdoctoral fellowship in California and a stint as an environmental consultant, Ross is now a lecturer at Southern Cross University.

Jennie Chaplin (PhD 1992) and Alison Hunt (PhD 1994) also went to North America for postdoctoral fellowships (Jennie to Canada and Alison to Delaware in the USA). Jennie has returned to Australia as a lecturer at Murdoch University. After



## DALE SPENDER - RETURN OF THE GLADIATOR



In the 25 years since she was a postgraduate student at the University of Wollongong, Dale Spender has made a name for herself as an author, feminist and, most recently, cyberspace junkie. Dale was guest speaker following the Alumni Association's annual general meeting in March and, as Anne Coombs writes, she foreshadowed a new world order.

Just as writers, academics and bureaucrats are beginning to feel comfortable with their word processors, Dale Spender has a warning for us: It is not enough. The computer is not a glorified typewriter; the screen is not an electronic version of the printed page.

Cyberspace is the latest field of conquest for Spender, who is perhaps best known for her provocative books, her love of purple and for having once refused to be interviewed by male journalists. She has written or edited more than thirty books, with titles such as *Women of Ideas (and what men have done to them)*, *Reflecting Men at Twice Their Natural Size* and *Man Made Language*. She describes herself as a researcher, writer, editor, broadcaster and teacher and has a Litt.B from the University of New England and a PhD from London University, as well as her Wollongong MA. At

present, Spender is a senior research associate with the University of Illinois and honorary research fellow at the University of Queensland.

Dale Spender has been a devotee of the printed word, but now she is a convert to computers. She has abandoned her loyalty to ink and paper and her lifelong love of books. The back cover of her new book, *Nattering on the Net* (Spinifex, 1995), proclaims 'This may be the last book you ever read'. Will it be the last book she ever writes?

In the introduction, Spender says, 'The emergence of cyberspace challenges the horizons and habits of print-based culture. It is now more than five hundred years since the printing press was introduced, and with it came a social revolution in the western world and the foundations of contemporary society. In its own way, print helped to construct the particular western notions of individual and community (a conceptualisation not always shared by the Chinese, for example). So engrained is this print-world view that we aren't necessarily conscious of the hold it has on our minds.'

*'We are living through one of the most fundamental revolutions in the history of humanity.'*

She has not abandoned her interest in gender and power. *Nattering on the Net* is subtitled 'Women, power and cyberspace'. Her fascination is not with computers themselves but with the effect they will have on our society and culture. And it was on these aspects that she

concentrated in her talk to the Alumni, which followed the annual general meeting on March 9.

Spender unmasked the way in which the age of print has inculcated certain patterns of reading, writing and learning, and the extent to which we take these as immutable. That, she says, has to change.

'We are living through one of the most fundamental revolutions in the history of humanity,' she said. The amount of restructuring of our lives that was required, the change within one lifetime, was frightening. But, she intimated, it could not be backed away from.

'It just isn't going to be possible in the future to teach what we've been taught.' She said that just as one couldn't have illiterate teachers in the age of print, you couldn't have computer-incompetent teachers in the computer age. And it wasn't just a matter of learning to use a computer as a word processor. Teachers must learn to use computers as a textbook. 'At present no university has a course to teach teachers this.'

Universities themselves were facing a fundamental change in their role. 'Some people think that all that has happened is that information that was once contained in books is now being transferred to screens and that we will become a sort of paperless society . . . but even the processes of reading and writing are being changed.'

The analogy she drew was with the introduction of the printing press. In the age of manuscripts, only the select few were considered capable of reading. No-one then expected everyone to be able to read. Reading meant



committing large slabs of material to memory. Writers in the manuscript age were not creative artists but scribes who copied the religious texts. 'Writers as we know them are purely and simply products of the printing press,' she said.

*'There is no doubt that the Internet is going to be the educational hub of the twenty-first century...'*

The church controlled both reading and writing, and strongly resisted the changes that came with the printing press. Printed books meant the churches could be bypassed. Critics proclaimed a drop in standards, the end of civilised society, the death of conversation. The same claims, Spender said, that were now made about the computer age.

'As the medium and the conventions change, so too do the culture and the view of the world it constructs. . . . print shaped people's consciousness - the world as an ordered, regulated place. Print gave a sense of stability, a context in which no change took place. The medium is the message.'

'[At the beginning of the print age] the emergence of this new entity, the creative author, brought with it some interesting shifts in our own belief system. Society started to put its trust in writers who wrote books, rather than readers who studied scriptures.'

Reading and writing both changed as a result of the printing press and they would change again now, in response

to changes in the medium. (Who, in recent years, has ever committed large tracts of material to memory?) As reading and writing changed, so too would learning. Learning, studying has meant reading, not writing, but Spender argues that the process of writing is a form of learning, one that has been insufficiently encouraged to date. 'Writing helps form new ideas.'

While we have believed that everyone should be able to read a book, we certainly have not believed that everyone should be able to write a book. We have believed in the mass audience rather than mass authors, she said.

What do these changes mean for universities? Five hundred years ago, churches lost control of the information. Similarly, once information is available outside universities, they no longer hold the same position. There may not need to be so many of them.

In *Nattering on the Net*, Spender writes, 'There is no doubt that the Internet is going to be the educational hub of the twenty-first century. . . .

'Universities will not be competing only with each other in the marketplace. At the same time as they are becoming like corporations, corporations will be on their way to becoming like universities. Both will be vying for a place in the information business.'

But as these changes happen, parents and educators seem to be trying more than ever to instil a reverence for the book. It is a harking back. 'Reading and studying books has been the foundation stone of our education and public systems,' Spender said. 'Writing,

producing, creating is going to carry the weight of learning from now on.'

The electronic revolution means that everyone can potentially be a public author. 'Just as the new medium of the book led to the democratisation of reading, now the new medium of the computer leads to the democratisation of authorship. . . . if everyone can be an author, there is no longer anything prestigious or special about authorship, which is precisely how the monks felt when they lost their status as readers and the process was opened up to everyone.'

*'The new generation are well aware that the electronic medium is more about doing, or making information, than about being an audience for someone else's contribution.'*

Spender said that children looked at computers the way we have seen telephones and books. The information super-highway is their way of communicating. She told the story of a seven-year-old niece who rejected a computer she had passed on to her, because it wasn't 'hooked up'.

Spender concedes that she no longer has much interest in the printed word. It can't do what she wants it to. 'In learning from print, you have to take on other people's ideas. In the past, we have valued knowing, not doing. The new generation are well aware that the electronic medium is more about doing, or making information, than

about being an audience for someone else's contribution.'

She said that people of her generation referred to the Internet as a means of accessing information. 'Almost all my peers concentrate on getting information from 'out there'. This is a print-bound mindset that puts learning and reading together and it is certainly not how the electronic generation sees the opportunities of the Internet.

'We have an education profession that has been reared with print, that has absorbed certain conventions and values that have been generally accepted as the signs of learning. Yet we have an expanding body of students that have been reared on the electronic culture, that are acquiring different modes of learning, developing different conventions about information and learning and scholarship. Not to mention a different view of the world. And between the two generations is an enormous gap, so much so that many educators and parents can no longer speak to the young in their own language.'

Spender's message is that the elders are going to fail unless they make the transition. 'Reading, writing, learning, thinking, are not absolutes. They are different entities depending on the context and as the context changes from page to screen, what we think, how we think, what we regard as learning, these will all undergo transformation. And I don't think anyone knows what the future is going to hold.'

## CENTRE FOR MULTICULTURAL STUDIES MOVES INTO ASIA PACIFIC

The Director and two staff from the University's Centre for Multicultural Studies (CMS) recently returned from the first conference of the Asia Pacific Migration Research Network (APMRN) in Bangkok.

The conference, and the Network, were the initiatives of the Centre after it won support from UNESCO-MOST\* for an international project to research migration and ethnic relations.

One of the staff members who travelled to Thailand was Wollongong graduate and CMS Research Assistant, Patrick Brownlee (BA (Hons) 1992, MA 1995), who outlines this exciting international project.

### Global links

In conjunction with the Asian Research Centre for Migration at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, CMS brought together scholars and policy makers from more than thirteen countries in the Asia Pacific. The conference, held from 11-13 March, was the official launching of the APMRN, which links universities and non-government organisations in a program of research expected to run until December 2000.

The Centre for Multicultural Studies tendered for a UNESCO-sponsored program in late 1994. CMS presented a project entitled *New Migrations and Growing Ethno-cultural Diversity in the Asia Pacific*, with a multi-million dollar budget. Its focus was a study into how migration and development in the growing Asia Pacific region was transforming the social and cultural make-up of the different countries.



Pictured with other delegates at the conference farewell luncheon are Professor Stephen Castles, Director of the University's Centre for Multicultural Studies, and Dr Supang Chantanavich, from the Asian Research Centre for Migration at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.

There is no question that parts of Asia are experiencing boom times with the so-called 'Tiger Economies' creating enormous wealth in the region. However, this growth has displaced many people and attracted many others. The consequent interaction between different ethno-linguistic and cultural groups is a feature of economic growth which is too often ignored.

The aim of the project was to go beyond the surface of economic growth to discover how the dozens of countries in the region would cope with the social pressures of globalisation. For CMS, it also presented an opportunity to study the formations of multicultural societies and compare them to our own.

### CMS success

Winning approval for the project was a major coup for CMS and for the University of Wollongong. As the coordinating institution, CMS has the opportunity once again to place itself at the

forefront of cultural and ethnic relations research in Australia.

The Centre has been involved in research and consultancy work into ethnic relations, international migration and multiculturalism since it began operating in 1978. It has worked closely with a number of government departments, including the former Office of Multicultural Affairs, providing policy advice and recommendations on key strategies for multiculturalism in Australia.

The UNESCO-MOST project is probably the most important and far-reaching to date for CMS. It has already received financial support from the federal government and additional funding from the University. UN endorsement means that, along with the eleven other universities which comprise the APMRN, the Centre for Multicultural Studies can raise its international profile. As a result of the Bangkok conference, there have already been pledges of support and

assistance to the APMRN and CMS.

### Aims of APMRN

The task for the Asia Pacific Migration Research Network is to combine the resources and skills of the different research institutions and develop a series of studies with theoretical and practical application. Where many institutions throughout the region have semi-formal linkages, the APMRN is a solid cooperative venture with specific long-term goals. It is envisaged that policy papers, consultancy work, academic publications, workshops, and a statistical database on migration will be developed by the Network.

Migration and ethno-cultural diversity are likely to be major factors shaping the societies of the Asia Pacific region. Acknowledging that migration will make fundamental contributions to society, but will also present important challenges to existing foundations and identities, is a vital first step in the search for appropriate policies.

The next step is to carry out social-scientific research to determine what transformations are occurring and likely to occur in the future. This will enable researchers to assist and influence decisions made by policy makers to cope with development.

The University of Wollongong's Centre for Multicultural Studies, as a core member of the APMRN, is well-positioned to deliver contemporary answers to the pressures and complexities of 'modernisation' in the Asia Pacific.

\*MOST is the Management of Social Transformations division of UNESCO in Paris.



## PRESTIGIOUS PRIZE FOR CREATIVE ARTS LECTURER

Wollongong-based poet, performance artist and lecturer in the Faculty of Creative Arts, Dr Merlinda Bobis has been awarded one of the nation's biggest and most prestigious prizes for writers of radio drama, the Ian Reed Foundation Prize.



ABC Managing Director, Brian Johns, awarded the prize in January to Dr Bobis for her outstanding play, *Rita's Lullaby*.

The prize is offered by the Ian Reed Foundation, through ABC radio, to encourage aspiring writers of Australian radio drama. The Foundation was established through a substantial trust left by Ian Reed, a prominent radio writer in the 1970s.

The prize includes \$7,000 in cash, \$3,000 in broadcast fees and guaranteed production by ABC Radio. Entrants were asked to address the prize theme of 'Oceania and Asia' in the form of a one-hour play.

*Rita's Lullaby* is a protest against war. It is a poetic evocation of the lives of a 13-year old prostitute and a 12-year old pickpocket, separated from their parents who disappeared during the militarisation of the Philippines under Corazon Aquino.

They meet in a children's playground where they discuss present survival strategies and recall past horrors. They dream, and wait for their parents who were 'picked up' by the military but promised to return.

The judges commented that *Rita's Lullaby* stood out from the other entries for its emotional immediacy, its power to evoke an extraordinary world and make us know that we are part of that world. 'It is a poignant poem, a dramatic song both terrible and beautiful,' they said.

Merlinda Bobis has taught literature, English, arts and writing in the Philippines and Australia for twelve years. She earned the highest honours for her Bachelor of Arts and

Master of Arts in literature in the Philippines. Merlinda came to Wollongong to accept a scholarship with the Faculty of Creative Arts.

She completed a Doctorate in Creative Arts with a performance epic poem, *Cantata of the Warrior Woman Daragang Magayon*, a book in Filipino and English, and a thesis which engages the issues of feminism, bilingualism, performance and post-coloniality.

Dr Bobis has received numerous awards for her work, including the Carlos Palanca Memorial Award, one of the most significant awards in literature in the Philippines.

## FACE-READING ROBOT

**Truck drivers will never fall asleep at the wheel again if a remarkable robot vision system being developed at the University is adopted by leading transport companies.**

**A**ble to scrutinise the driver's sleepy face and detect the first tell-tale signs he or she may be nodding off, the robot is the first in the world to interpret human facial expressions and gestures in detail, and in 'real time'.

Dr Alex Zelinsky, who leads a research team in the University's Department of Computer Science, says that traditionally computers have relied on a keyboard, mouse or speech recognition to tell them what to do. Now they can be commanded by a nod, smile or grimace.

This novel human-machine interface, currently the most advanced type of its kind in the world, uses an ordinary video camera to input information from a user into a computer.

from side to side, or looks up or down.

Since facial features can reliably be tracked, the motion of the features can also be observed. This allows the recognition of gestures such as nodding and shaking the head for 'yes' and 'no'. The system can discriminate between a large set of gestures in real time, and can detect whether the person has his/her mouth open or closed, as well as eye movements such as winking, blinking or sleeping.

He considers the potential uses for a face-reading robot to be enormous. One possible application would be to monitor the eyes of a truck driver for lack of blinking, indicating a somnolent state, or actual closure, indicating sleep.

'In that case, the driver could be alerted with a beep,' Alex explains. 'In the case of a serious problem like a heart attack, the vehicle could be automatically braked.'

Another area being investigated is building a robot which enables physically handicapped people to feed themselves, by signalling to it with a nod or by opening their mouth.

'Many disabled people have told me they would like the freedom to feed themselves at their own pace, and to choose food off their plate themselves. They see it as a way to gain more independence,' he says. 'The robot could also help severely disabled people to read a book or even to paint a picture, simply by using facial commands and movements.'

This exciting new technology is now ready for commercial development. All Alex Zelinsky has to do now is to find a partner interested in taking the robot to the world market, before overseas competitors can catch up.

This article is based on one which appeared in *The Weekend Australian* on 20-21 April 1996, by science and technology writer Julian Cribb.



Robotics - closing the loop between perception and action. Dr Alex Zelinsky, from the University's Department of Computer Science, is pictured with some of his research equipment.

With the aim of making robots more 'human' in the way they respond, Dr Zelinsky has developed a set of image templates which enable a computer to track changes in facial features and to interpret what is required of it.

A person sits in front of a video camera. Images of his/her head and shoulders are sent from the video to a vision processing system. The vision system, which is based on template matching, tracks features such as eyes or mouth in 'real time', whilst the person turns his/her head

Several years' work with Japan's National Electrotechnical Laboratory has allowed Alex Zelinsky great insights into where robotics is heading, as well as collaborative work with Fujitsu who developed the computer vision hardware.

'Face tracking is not as simple as it might seem,' he says. 'The shade and appearance of facial features alter as a person moves his/her head, resulting in marked differences between the current templates and the ones the computer refers to.'



## ONE ARTIST, TWO TRADITIONS

Chinese-born artist Tie Hua Huang, who has been completing his PhD in Creative Arts, recently exhibited over a hundred paintings as part of his final doctoral submission.



Creative arts student, Tie Hua Huang, at his recent exhibition at Wollongong City Gallery, forming part of the submission for his PhD. Photo courtesy of The Illawarra Mercury.

The exhibition, held at Wollongong City Gallery during April and May, was refreshingly original. The paintings looked at Tie Hua's adopted country through eyes trained in traditional Chinese art, with the artist drawing on contemporary western materials and techniques.

'In my work,' Tie Hua says, 'there is an amalgamation of both the Chinese literary tradition and western styles from the Renaissance through to the twentieth century.'

'An essential component to enhancing creativity is also that of gaining new material and experiences from nature, which is achieved through travel. The main source of inspiration in my work is the landscape and nature of the Illawarra region: the mountain's escarpment as well as flora and fauna, including domestic birds and marine animals.

'This new home has provided me with new insights and new ways of looking at the world. At the same time I often reflect on my other home, dream of images from my past and create works which keep my ties with that tradition.'

Tie Hua's exposure to western art and training was fragmented due to political disturbances in China, although his teacher in China, Zhu Qi Zhan (who is revered amongst artists in China and still painting at the age of 105) studied western painting styles, and drew connections between western masters and movements with eastern arts and the concept of Chinese literary painting.

Tie Hua explains that Zhu's summation of his approach to painting was to achieve three aims: independence, force and succinctness. 'Independence means that a painter should have his own features instead

of being dependent on or blindly worship those of other schools.

'The force is the strength which lies in the bold and vigorous stroke of a painter and comes from his mental effort or inner word, and succinctness is embodied in being terse and concise.'

Since 1987, when Tie Hua moved to Australia, the dual cultural influence in his work has become more sustained. He was artist-in-residence in the Faculty of Creative Arts for a period, and now, as a permanent Australian resident, he is completing his doctorate and exhibiting in Australia and the USA.

Tie Hua's work combines the influence of one of the 12th century Chinese masters with his fondness for the paintings of Australian artists Arthur Boyd and Lloyd Rees. According to Tie Hua, this amalgamation of styles highlights the extraordinary differences between the highly restrictive ancient Chinese traditions and the freedom of contemporary western art.

The paintings in Tie Hua's recent exhibition range from works depicting places of beauty in the Illawarra, which is now his home, to works referring to his life in China and his struggles as an artist under the oppression of a communist government. As such his paintings offer a means to study social and cultural differences, not only between art forms, but between the countries themselves.

## THE ITALIAN-AUSTRALIAN CONNECTION

Over the years Efrem and Giulia Bonacina have been quiet achievers, especially on behalf of the Italian community in the Illawarra. Now both long-retired, they dedicate their time to 'It So Wel', the local Italian Social Welfare Organisation, as well as being keen supporters of the University.

For their outstanding commitment and tireless work, Efrem and Giulia, aged 79 and 76 respectively, have been honoured many times by associations and governments in both Australia and Italy.

The awards, Giulia says, are 'too many - it's nice, but personally I do it because I feel I want to do it. I don't feel exceptional.' Of particular note are the BEM (British

And walk together they do. They also work together, side by side keeping 'It So Wel' in order.

Sharing the same office, they have an interesting working relationship. Although they agree that they are just too busy to fight, Efrem explains it's because Giulia does all the talking anyway. 'When the priest said 'you like to marry this lady?', I said: yes, I never

with brighter prospects, and so he chose Argentina. In spite of his application being knocked back, he used his long service leave money to travel there. He didn't speak or read the language, so finding a job was difficult. Looking for a change of life, although a little old at 38, Efrem started an apprenticeship as an electrician.

While in Argentina the Bonacinas had their third child, but not long after that, in 1952, life in Argentina became difficult. So they sold what they owned and returned to Italy with very little money or belongings.

In the intervening years there had been many changes in Italy. Efrem had to resort to working as a salesman, which meant that although he travelled a lot, the wages were poor. So when a friend at his old workplace, the Emigration Office, suggested he go to Australia 'where the money is better', he thought, 'why not?', and less than two months later the Bonacina family was on a ship bound for Melbourne.

After more than 30 days on board ship, they arrived in 1961 with three children and another on the way, 'although we didn't know at the time,' says Giulia.

Their first impressions of Australia were not all that positive. They wanted to go back (to Italy) straightaway, 'because you are deaf and dumb - for the first five years you don't understand anything,' says Efrem.

They spoke no English when they arrived and Giulia confesses she was actually against learning the language. At high school in Italy she had learnt French; when they



Giulia & Efrem Bonacina

Empire Medal) presented to Giulia in 1978, and the OAM (Order of Australia Medal) awarded to Efrem in 1987. Both have also been named Citizen of the Year by Wollongong City Council: Efrem in 1980 and Giulia in 1994.

And the awards continue to come in. In March this year, Giulia was named by the National Italo-Australian Women's Association as the Italian-Australian Woman of the Year, while in late 1995 Efrem was knighted by the Italian Consul-General and became a Cavaliere of the Italian Republic. One step ahead, Giulia was knighted with this award in 1987, the Croce di Cavaliere, but, as Efrem says, 'now we walk together'.

have to open my mouth again,' he says.

Giulia herself has a favourite saying from the town where they were both born, Treviso in northern Italy. 'My husband is the owner; I'm only the owner of the owner.' And these are the key ingredients to the Bonacinas' successful relationship since they married in 1941.

*'For the first five years you don't understand anything.'*

After World War II, Efrem helped set up the Italian Emigration Office and sent people to work in other countries such as Switzerland, Belgium and Germany. One day he too decided that he'd like to work somewhere else



moved to Argentina she needed to learn Spanish, so she did; but when they came to Australia they were much older. They tried their best, but 'we still don't say 'G'Day' after forty years in Australia'.

For a short time Efrem worked in the tobacco industry in Victoria, before coming to Wollongong where he was employed at the Port Kembla steelworks. He worked there for five years before moving to Tallawarra Power Station, where he stayed until his retirement in 1982.

After their fourth child was born, Giulia took English classes. Before that she learnt English by herself and says this is the worst thing to do. 'When I interpret now, the first thing I say to the new migrants is don't worry about work, go to learn English straightaway because it's very hard to correct yourself.' After improving her English, Giulia started working for the Good Neighbour Council, welcoming newcomers from overseas to Wollongong.

Her voluntary work in the community continued through her role as an interpreter in Spanish and Italian for the Committee of Assistance for Italians (Co As It). Giulia explains that the need for help kept growing as the Italian community grew, and indeed the Bonacinas have been helping ever since. As President and Secretary of Co As It, Efrem and Giulia continued to work tirelessly for migrants in the Illawarra. Having gone through a similar experience themselves, they wanted to make life easier for them.

'We are involved in the community because something was needed. Today there is help, but before there

wasn't. Now there are interpreters in every language.'

They worked with Co As It as an Illawarra branch until 1984, when funding was cut. So then they founded the Italian Social Welfare Organisation, known as 'It So Wel', of which Efrem is still the President. They borrowed \$50,000 and bought the house in Stewart Street where It So Wel is still located today. With community support the house was paid off, and then they began fundraising for extensions.

Over the years the Bonacinas have continued to raise money for a number of activities, events and appeals. It So Wel organises regular activities for the Italian community, including bingo games and bus trips, as well as a program, 'Discover the country you live in', which includes an annual trip around Australia.

*'I don't know where  
we find the time,  
but when you are  
involved you just  
do more.'*

Their most recent achievement was the opening of eight units next to the It So Wel centre. The units provide accommodation for elderly single Italians. Efrem says, 'Three years ago we had a dream to build something for the people here, and now that dream is a reality.'

The Bonacinas are not only involved in It So Wel but in many other clubs and organisations too numerous to list. Their commitments range from organising 'meals on wheels' for Italian and Spanish people, to establishing day care for frail and aged Italians; from raising

money for the Italian earthquake appeals, to their life membership of the Dante Alighieri Society. Giulia says, 'I don't know where we find the time, but when you are involved you just do more.'

Their involvement also includes the University of Wollongong. This began when they were asked to write a letter of support for Italian classes at the University, and it grew from there. In 1990 they were both made Fellows of the University, which means they are now also members of the Alumni Association's Honorary Chapter.

In the eighties, Efrem worked with the Friends of the University to help raise more than \$55,000 towards a book about the first local Italian immigrants. For this effort he and Giulia were made life members of the Friends. The book was written for the 14,000 Italians and many more descendants who live in the Illawarra today.

So the Italian welfare worker, also a mother of four children raised in three different countries, and the champion swimmer, who in 1932 missed out on selection for the Olympic Games because the tram was late, have certainly both come a long way.

Giulia and Efrem say that soon it will be time to 'put the Bonacinas out', but for now they say they are content to 'use our hearts and not our brains to do this work'.

Their continuing achievements are perfectly summarised by Efrem. 'Giulia and I are like a snowball in an avalanche. We keep rolling and getting bigger and bigger all the time, and we are just waiting for our tree to come out and stop us.'

## ENGINEERING / COMMERCE ALUMNI

# Reunion Dinner/Dance

**All Alumni, Staff and  
Students welcome**

**Saturday, 27 July 1996  
7.00 for 7.30pm  
at**

**City Pacific Hotel  
Burelli Street, Wollongong**

### GUEST SPEAKER:

**Bob Menzies**  
Former Olympic athlete  
to speak about  
'The Olympic Experience'

**Cost:**  
**\$40 per head**  
(financial members of the  
Alumni Association\*  
and their partners)  
or  
**\$45 per head**  
(other alumni and guests)

**Cost includes 3-course meal  
and entertainment.  
Drinks may be purchased at  
the bar.**

**For further information and  
tickets contact  
Engineering Chapter Secretary,  
Ted Bosman  
on (042) 28 8662;  
Belinda Schuster, Commerce  
Faculty on (042) 21 4478;  
or the Alumni Office on  
(042) 21 3169.**

(\*NB: Alumni Association  
annual membership is \$25)

**COME ALONG AND  
SHARE THE SPIRIT!**

This year's annual general meeting, held on 9 March, followed the now-established tradition of having an eminent member of the alumni as guest speaker. Dr Dale Spender, who, with her sister Lynne became the University's first female masters graduates when they took out their Master of Arts degrees in 1972, returned to the campus for the first time in many years to address her fellow alumni.

She said that through the Internet, authorship is now in the public domain, and that this new emphasis on active writing, as opposed to passive reading, will have ramifications far into the future. She warned that we ignore this trend to our peril and that those of us who do not soon learn to become 'computer competent' will be left behind. (Dale's address is analysed in depth by Anne Coombs on pages 8&9.)



The Spender sisters with their parents at the AGM. From left: Lynne, Harry, Ivy and Dale Spender. Lynne is Executive Director of the Australian Society of Authors and Dale is also well-known as a researcher, writer, broadcaster and keen supporter of the information technology revolution.

Accompanied by Lynne and their parents, Dale wore her customary purple and, as one would expect from someone renowned for her strong opinions, gave a most provocative talk. Surprisingly perhaps, the main theme was not Dale's well-known feminist views, but instead she spoke at length about the massive changes that the information revolution is having on society. She drew comparisons between the beginning of the print era, which 'democratised reading', and the beginning of the computer era, which is in the process of 'democratising writing'.

Newly-elected members of the Alumni Board of Management following the AGM. From left: Allan Petersen, Ruth Procter, Ron Perrin and Harry Alla.



## Elections to the Alumni Board

At the AGM the following office bearers were elected:

President	Ruth Procter
Vice-President	Allan Petersen
Secretary	Harry Alla
Treasurer	Ron Perrin

The inaugural secretary, Ms Wendy Raikes, stepped down this year. Wendy has done a tremendous job of documenting the Association's early years and the Board is most appreciative of this. We welcome Mr Harry Alla as the new secretary and know that he will serve the Association well - he is already scrutinising the constitution with a keen eye!

Following the Convocation elections late last year, a new Convocation representative to the Board has been nominated by the University

Some of the alumni who attended the meeting held in Hong Kong in early February. Pictured with them in the front row is Belinda Schuster, External Relations Officer in the Commerce Faculty. Virtually all the alumni present were Commerce graduates.

Council. This is Clr Kerrie Christian, who is also a member of the Engineering Alumni. Kerrie replaces Dr Winifred Ward, to whom the Board offers sincere thanks for her contribution since the Association's establishment. Winifred, who was made a Fellow of the University in May, thus becoming a new member of the Honorary Chapter, is profiled on page 20.

The other new Convocation member elected to the University Council last December was Mr John Steinke, whom many Commerce alumni will remember well. John worked at the University for about 30 years, seven of which he was foundation Dean of Commerce prior to his retirement in 1993. There are four Convocation members on Council, the others being Mr Keith Phipps (former and foundation Alumni Association President) and Ms Shirley Nixon.

Another new member of the Alumni Board is Associate Professor John Patterson, who replaces Ms Josie Castle as the academic representative recommended by the Vice-Chancellor. Due to her many other commitments as Dean of Students, Josie was obliged



to step down recently. As Dean of Education, and always a firm supporter of alumni events, John Patterson will undoubtedly be a great asset to the Board.

Four of the Association chapters also held their annual general meetings on 9 March. Their new office bearers are listed below.

## NEW CHAPTERS

The last six months has seen the development of three new regional alumni chapters, two overseas and one close to Wollongong.

### Hong Kong

About 35 alumni in Hong Kong attended a business meeting in early February to begin the process of establishing a UOW alumni chapter there. There was considerable interest and enthusiasm expressed at the meeting, and ten of the alumni present volunteered to be part of a steering



Members of the Shoalhaven alumni who travelled to Wollongong for the AGM. From left: Roslyn McDonald, Sue-Ellen Misfeld and Kerrie Griffith, who are all working in education.

committee which has already met several times.

There are now at least 400 Wollongong alumni living in Hong Kong, offering a substantial base for the development of a chapter. In addition to those who came to the February meeting, another 20 or so expressed interest in becoming involved, and other alumni in HK are invited to make contact any time ( - just send a fax or e-mail to the Alumni Office and it will be forwarded on).



Some members of the Education Chapter committee after the AGM. From left: Fran Egan, Kerrie Eyding, Elizabeth Sandeman-Gay, Christine Howell and Lenore Armour.

## CHAPTER COMMITTEES 1996 (elected March '96)

Committee members listed below may be contacted via the Alumni Office on tel (042) 21 3169 or 21 3249, or by fax on (042) 21 4299.

### Campus

#### President

Trevor Brew

#### Vice-President

Keith Phipps

#### Secretary/Treasurer

Wolfgang Brodesser

#### Bookshop Coordinator

Marjory Macdonald

#### Assistant Bookshop Coordinator

Wilma Furlonger

#### Alumni Board Representative

Trevor Brew

### Commerce

#### President

David Winton

#### Vice-President

Rita Tibbits

#### Secretary

Joy Bassett

#### Treasurer

John Vourliotis

#### Alumni Board Representative

Ron Perrin

#### Membership Extension Officer

Greg Laing

### Education

#### President

Elizabeth Sandeman-Gay

#### Vice-President

Kerrie Eyding

#### Secretary

Christine Howell

#### Treasurer

Hazel Holmwood

#### Alumni Board Representative

Allan Petersen

#### Committee Members

Lenore Armour

Fran Egan

Kerrie Griffith

### Engineering

#### President

Mark Bell

#### Vice-President

Jon Thompson

#### Secretary

Lewis Schmidt

#### Treasurer

Ted Bosman

#### Alumni Board Representative

Ted Bosman

#### Committee Members

Kerrie Christian

Richard Dwight

Vic Watts

### Honorary (elected October '95)

#### Convenor

Brian Gillett

#### Deputy Convenors

Laurie Kelly

Ted Tobin

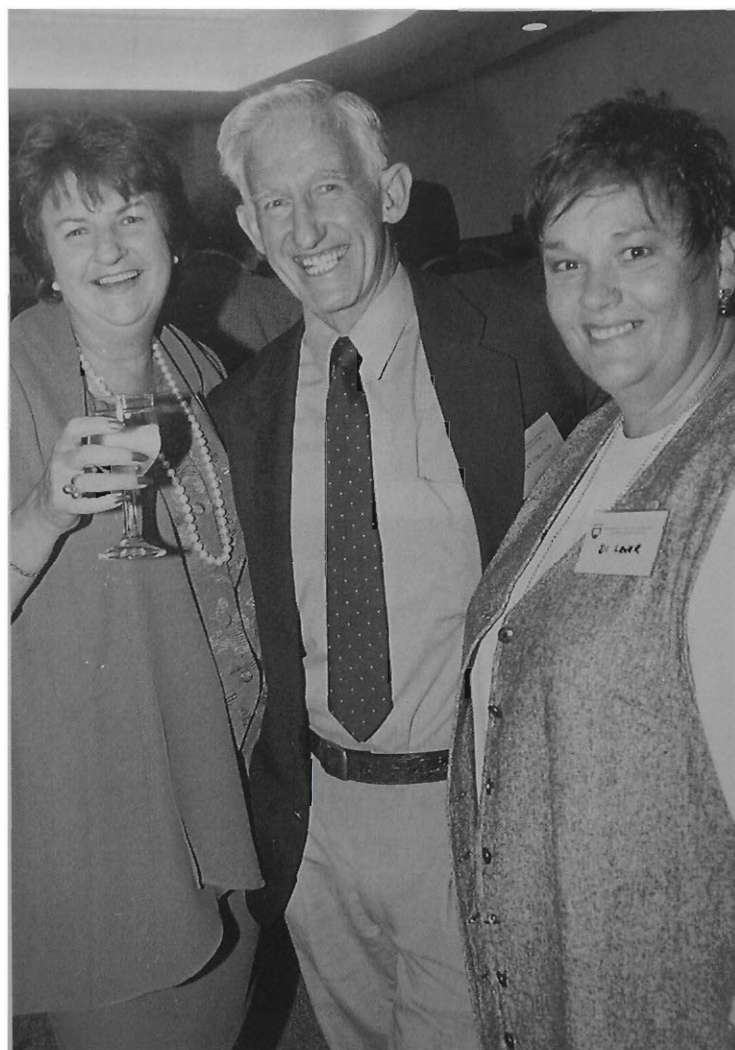
#### Secretary/Treasurer

John Bell

#### Committee Member

Walter Jervis





Guests at the Shoalhaven reception held at the Graham Park Campus, Berry during February. From left: Beverley and Brian Chater with Di Laver, Head Teacher, Nowra TAFE. Brian has recently been elected to chair the Shoalhaven Alumni steering committee.

The steering committee is planning to hold a reunion dinner later in the year and is currently addressing problems such as structure, focus and finding a suitable meeting space. University staff visiting Hong Kong have also met up with alumni members.

#### Taiwan

In November last year two small gatherings of UOW alumni were held in Taipei and Taichung, hosted by Lily Soh from the University's International Office. About 20 alumni attended the receptions and were most enthusiastic about staying in touch with the University and each other.

The alumni video was shown to much acclaim. As always, our international alumni are keen to see how the campus has changed since they left.

#### Shoalhaven

A cocktail reception was held at the Graham Park Campus, Berry in late February to launch the new Shoalhaven Chapter. About 20 alumni were present amongst the 90 or so guests, many of whom were local business and community contacts.

Again, a steering committee has been formed to pursue the development of this group. The members have met several times, the focus to date being mainly on the

development of the University's Nowra campus and how local alumni might become involved in this.

### CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

#### Campus Alumni

Membership of the Campus Alumni is open to any graduate or former staff member who lives locally and who may not have a vocational or other chapter affiliation.

The Chapter had its origins in the Friends of the University, where it was called the Graduates Group after its formation in the early eighties. About three years ago the members voted to become part of the Alumni Association, but their mission has not changed. The Campus Alumni members are true 'friends' of the University in the support they offer to students and visitors.

This support includes ushering at graduation ceremonies, working as scribes during examinations for students with a disability, giving grants and awarding prizes. At present the Campus Alumni awards three annual book prizes worth \$300 each to outstanding honours students.

The main source of revenue for the book prizes is the Chapter's second-hand Bookshop at Campus East, which relies on a combination of space provided by the University, donations of books and volunteer staffing to raise funds.

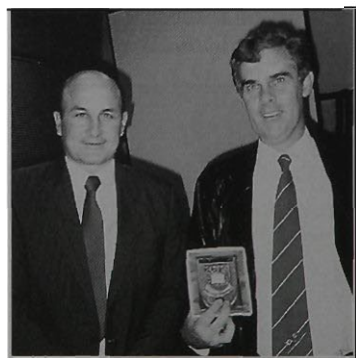
Under Marjory Macdonald's management, the Bookshop has raised many thousands of dollars in the hope that future prizes may be self-funding. The Bookshop is open on the

second and fourth weekends of each month from 1-5pm, and also has a sale on campus during Open Day (Sunday 25 August this year).

#### Commerce

The Commerce Alumni held a networking night on 16 February at which two members of the alumni (Jenny Dransfield and Gerry Sullivan) gave short addresses. The Dean, Professor Gill Palmer, also spoke about current developments within the Faculty. About 30 alumni attended, each providing his or her business card for the draw of 'lucky door' prizes.

At the Chapter's AGM held on 9 March, the 1995 Commerce Alumni Award was presented to Brian Hogan (DipMgt 1983, ME(Hons) 1995). Brian won the award for his outstanding accomplishments in his work as project director for the track strengthening project for the SRA, Rail Services



1995 Commerce Alumni Award winner, Brian Hogan with Chapter President, David Winton (left).

Group, and for his interest in community activities in the Illawarra.

The Chapter has recently agreed to jointly host a Reunion Dinner/Dance with the Engineering Alumni, to be held on Saturday 27 July at the City Pacific Hotel in Wollongong (see details on page 15). Since many

## KYOUNG CHEOL MIN

### BCom 1993

After completing his degree at Wollongong,

Kyoung returned to his home in Korea. For two years he worked in a manufacturing company as an overseas purchasing officer.



Since last year Kyoung has been studying in New Zealand at the University of Auckland, where he is completing a graduate diploma in commerce (marketing). He will finish this course in mid-1996 and will probably return to Korea once again to find employment.

Kyoung says, 'I miss Australia, and the University of Wollongong especially.'

## LORI MCLEESE SIMOS

### Exchange student 1989

In 1989 Lori came to Wollongong as an exchange student from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

In May 1995 she graduated with honours from the University of San Francisco with a masters degree in teaching English as a second language.

Lori is now working for the San Francisco United School District, teaching an inner city kindergarten/first/second combination class at Cesar Chavez Elementary.



Education Chapter secretary, Christine Howell thanks Stan Warren for his address last year to alumni on his doctoral thesis and the direction of change in school education structure.

engineers also undertake management studies and/or work in the management area, there is a natural link between the two faculties and mutual interest in a combined function.

On Open Day (25 August) the Commerce Alumni will have a hospitality table in Building 40. Graduates and former staff of the Commerce Faculty are welcome to visit and rest weary feet for a moment between 11am and 3pm. Nomination forms will also be available for the Commerce Alumni of the Year Award for 1996.

Chapter President, David Winton, has recently accepted appointment as a member of the Faculty's Visiting Committee. This is seen as an important link between the Faculty and its alumni.

### Education

In early August the Education Chapter is planning to hold a forum to discuss a current topic of interest: the educational and social implications of raising the age for school entrance.

It is hoped that a panel of experts will lead the discussion, comprising

representatives from the early childhood area, parents and citizens groups and the Department of School Education, as well as an economics commentator. Dean of the Education Faculty, Associate Professor John Patterson, will chair the proceedings.

All alumni, particularly those with qualifications in education, are welcome to attend and to contribute to this forum. This and other events organised by the Chapter are advertised through the University and school networks, and appear in the local press.

For further information please contact Education Chapter President, Elizabeth Sandeman-Gay on (042) 21 3026, or Chapter Secretary, Christine Howell on (042) 96 6266.

### Engineering

A recent career development seminar for engineering students was jointly hosted by the Engineering Chapter, the Young Engineers Illawarra and the Engineering Faculty. Alumni Mark Bell and Vic Watts spoke about the importance of networking in the engineering profession,

and also counselled students individually about their career aspirations.

The Engineering Alumni awards for 1995 were presented by Chapter President, Mark Bell at the Faculty presentation night in May. The winning students were Louise Unicomb (Civil & Mining), Graham Fairbank (Materials) and Matthew Buykx (Mechanical).

The Chapter's major event this year will be the Reunion Dinner/Dance on Saturday, 27 July 1996, to be co-hosted by the Commerce Alumni (see details on page 15). The function will be held at the City Pacific Hotel in Wollongong, with guest speaker, Bob Menzies, former Olympic athlete and professional speaker, providing entertainment with his talk 'The Olympic Experience'.

All alumni, especially those from Engineering and Commerce, are invited to attend this dinner/dance and join in the knees-up. Come and share the spirit!

### Honorary

The Honorary Chapter has recently asked its members to contribute towards a scholarship in Italian studies, to be awarded in 1997. Over \$2,700 has been raised in the first month of the appeal, and members of the Executive are confident that sufficient funds will be received to award this as a 'one-off' scholarship next year.

Last year the Chapter awarded a \$3,000 scholarship (from funds donated by members in 1994) to a first-year student in Creative Arts. The recipient was Mr Eric Rowe, a mature age student who is enrolled in musical composition.



## ALUMNI PROFILE

## WINIFRED WARD BA(Hons) 1985, PhD 1989



**During this year's May graduations, Dr Winifred Ward was admitted as a Fellow of the University in recognition of her lifelong commitment to the community and her longstanding involvement with the University.**

Winifred Ward, a true daughter of Wollongong, was born here in 1920 and attended Wollongong Primary and then Wollongong High School. However, because of family circumstances, she was obliged to delay her entry into higher education for another 45 years.

In typical fashion, Winifred filled those years wholeheartedly with many achievements and an outstanding record of voluntary service. She qualified as a clerk/stenographer at Williams Business College and was also awarded a Speech Training Teacher's Diploma from Trinity College of Music (London).

Winifred's secretarial skills took her to Australian Iron and Steel, where for eight years she worked in the Chief Mechanical Engineers' Department with Frank Matthews, himself a notable figure in the development of the steelworks and, later, this University.

Although in a reserved occupation, Winifred served during World War II as a voluntary foundation member of the Womens' Emergency Signalling Corps and a member of the local Voluntary Aid Detachment.

After her marriage to Alan Ward in 1942, Winifred taught for 12 years as a speech training teacher. She then returned to the office environment as a clerk/stenographer at Wollongong District Hospital for several years, before joining her husband and brother in business as a company director and office manager for 21 years.

#### Community commitments

Paralleling this career were Winifred's enduring commitments to her church, to the care of both younger and older members of the community, and to the professional development of women. Amongst her many offices, she has been a Foundation Counsellor and Referral Officer of Lifeline Illawarra, secretary of the United Theological College Council, and is a member of the Uniting Church NSW Synod Board for Social Responsibility. She has been a Lay Preacher for the past 48 years and is an Elder of the Wollongong Wesley Mission.

Winifred was District Commissioner of the Girl Guides Association and has been secretary to the

Farmborough Grove Village Board of Management for 17 years. Her involvement with women's professional groups includes her roles as President and Secretary of the Business and Professional Women's Club of Wollongong, President and Secretary of Soroptimist International Wollongong and President of the Wollongong Women's Probud Club.

After Alan Ward's death in 1979, it was unlikely that Winifred would take the option of quiet retirement but, even so, the variety and standard of her later achievements are extraordinary and have been a great inspiration for her family and all around her.

#### Scholastic achievements

Winifred entered the University of Wollongong as a mature age student in 1981 and graduated in 1985 with a Bachelor of Arts degree, for which she was awarded first class honours in history. She continued her studies and, in her 70th year, was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1989. She is currently adapting her doctoral thesis as a book under the heading *Men Ahead of their Time. Heretics or Prophets?*

Winifred has served the University of Wollongong with great loyalty, devoting herself to a number of our committees, notably those that link to the community. She has been a member of the Community Involvement Committee of the Friends of the University for 10 years, and is a life member of the Campus Chapter of the Alumni Association, regularly assisting at their secondhand bookshop.

She is a member of the Committee for the Ethel Hayton Fellowship in Religious, Spiritual and Contemplative Studies and a member of the Ethel Hayton Trophy Award Committee. She also acts as a University tour guide and as a scribe for disabled students during examinations.

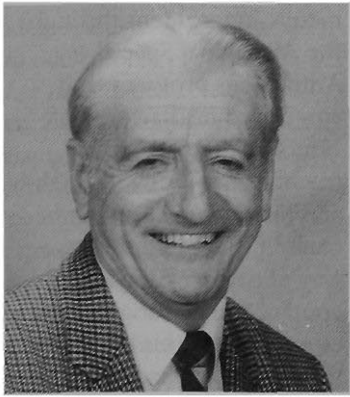
#### University Council involvement

For six years until the end of 1995, Winifred served as a member of the University Council, elected by her fellow graduates and other members of Convocation. She was involved in the decisions that saw this University develop during the last decade into a leading regional institution with an international reputation. Winifred's contribution was an important one, not only because of her business sense and knowledge of the community but, above all, because of her deep and abiding commitment to fairness and to recognising the worth of every individual.

Winifred regards this period as a special privilege, as it helped her to develop a close bond with the University, which, she says, has now become 'an important and treasured part of her life'. The University is honoured to count Winifred Ward as one of its staunchest allies.

## ALUMNI PROFILE

## JIM WALSH DipTeach 1980, BEd 1984



Jim Walsh was born in Brighton, England in 1935. In his early career he was a Motor Transport Officer in the Royal Engineers, serving in Germany with the British Army.

Because of his background in seamanship, having attended the Outward Bound Moray Sea School near Gordonstoun in Scotland, Jim was selected to crew the Royal Engineers'

sailing boat around the Baltic Sea, visiting various countries.

Following his National Service in the army, Jim joined the Metropolitan Police Force in London and served there four years at the West End Central Police Station as a police constable, where he was involved in both uniform and plain clothes duties.

After leaving the police force Jim married Audrey, a New Zealander, in Rarotonga in the Cook Islands. He also worked for a time in a local trading company there.

He then ventured into teaching, and on his arrival in Australia he gained a place at Balmain Teachers' College in Sydney. As president of the

students' union, Jim helped to organise the first inter-collegiate with the then Wollongong Institute of Education in 1961.

Having qualified as a teacher, Jim's career took him to teaching posts in Dubbo, Oberon, Bombala, Nimmitabel and Wollongong over a period of some 30 years. He was also an exchange teacher to the United Kingdom in 1975.

Jim's period in the Illawarra covers about twenty years, during which time he was deputy principal at Lake Illawarra South Primary School (1976-78), Principal - Diocese of Wollongong, St Michael's School, Thirroul (1979-84), and Principal - Diocese of Wollongong,

St Therese's School, West Wollongong (1984-94).

Jim undertook further studies in school administration, ministry and fine arts, at Armidale, Sydney and West Wollongong College of TAFE respectively. He also kept his teaching qualifications up-to-date through his studies at the University of Wollongong.

Having been employed by the Catholic Education Office in Wollongong as a principal for some years, in 1995 Jim became an education consultant before his recent retirement.

He is now pursuing his interests in painting, gardening, reading and travelling, and is also planning further additions to his large toy soldier collection.

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## ALUMNI ASSIST ABORIGINAL STUDENTS

The University's Aboriginal Education Centre is currently staffed by a number of UOW alumni, including Bill Harrison (BEd 1989, MEd 1993), Carol Speechley (BA 1991) and Dianne Snow (BA(Hons) 1983, DipEd 1985, PhD 1990). Gina Woodward spoke to these graduates about their role at the University.

After only three months in his new position as the Head of the Aboriginal Education Centre (AEC), Bill Harrison is feeling good about his future and about the education prospects for Aboriginal students throughout Australia.

Formerly Executive Officer in the local DEET Aboriginal Education Unit, Bill says he is really enjoying the University as he not only works with Aboriginal students now, but also with Aboriginal staff which is really important to him.



University of Wollongong alumni in charge of the Aboriginal Education Centre on campus. From left: Bill Harrison, Dianne Snow and Carol Speechley.

A big change for Bill is the freedom he is discovering now that he is no longer bound by the strict regulations of a large public service department. He says the University environment is giving him more opportunities to initiate his own policies and ideas for the Centre.

*'There are so many personal gains working with Aboriginal kids.'*

Bill has been a part of this campus before, both in the role of student and staff member. While working at DEET he took a three-year secondment as Deputy Head

of the AEC. After that first taste of working on campus, he knew he wanted to return one day.

Bill Harrison spent the first 20 years of his working life in the Royal Australian Navy, initially at sea. Later on, however, he began to teach technical subjects and liked the idea of being a teacher. Aboriginal people with whom he had contact at the time also encouraged him to become a teacher.

After leaving the navy Bill worked for a year with TAFE in the Aboriginal Teaching Program, and after this he knew what he really wanted to do.

So he came to the University of Wollongong as a full-time

mature age student through the Aboriginal Special Admissions program, and completed his Bachelor of Education (secondary teaching) majoring in English and history. As a student he realised that teaching was a way of getting back to regular contact with Aborigines, especially after his time in the navy where he had felt so alienated from his people.

During the last year of his BEd course, Bill worked full-time at DEET and also studied full-time, which he says was at times very difficult. Nevertheless he succeeded in becoming one of the first students to achieve a degree with distinction, despite being out of school for 21 years. After that there was no stopping him.

Bill later returned to the University on secondment from his position at DEET. While working as an Aboriginal studies lecturer and Deputy Head of the AEC, he undertook his Master of Education (planning & policy). 'After working at the University and then completing my master's degree, many doors opened for me,' he says.

*'I feel lucky to be able to come back in a role of student support'*

He was so busy that he never actually became an English/history teacher, but found his position as a DEET Education Officer very fulfilling. Bill's main role was to encourage Aboriginal teenagers to stay at school. 'There are so many personal gains working with Aboriginal kids,' he explains.

When he returned to DEET, Bill was promoted and



undertook extensive research into educational programs in other indigenous cultures in New Zealand and Canada. In Canada he worked with the native teacher education programs, and in New Zealand with the Maori Education Research Unit. He developed a real interest in indigenous education and has continued this research through networks all over the world.

Bill would like to spend the remainder of his career in academia. He wants to be able to see the progress in his area of interest, and says there have been many changes at the University's Aboriginal Education Centre over the past few years. He adds, 'I feel lucky to be able to come back in a role of student support, as I believe that this should be the central focus of all work done by the Centre.'

'I want the Centre to be a happy place for students. And I want to be able to get people from all over Australia to look to the University of Wollongong as the best place for Aboriginals, because of the support they're offered.'

Bill says he would really like to complete a PhD for his own development and the research he could undertake to help Aboriginal education, 'but there are so many other priorities and things to do in Aboriginal education that I probably won't get around to doing it. I don't want to sacrifice the 100 per cent effort that I want to give to supporting the students.'

As a student, and now as a staff member, Bill loves the University. He finds the natural environment, 'particularly the native trees', very appealing. Added to this is the University's location at the base of a significant

Aboriginal site, Mount Keira, and the fact that Wollongong is the first university with a name derived from the Aboriginal language. He says, 'I like the university, the people and the way it functions.'

There are some other Wollongong alumni working in the AEC and this, Bill says, is a very positive thing. It is helpful for the students that staff in the Centre have had university experience as students themselves.

Aboriginal Student Support Officer, Carol Speechley completed her Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in sociology in 1991. She undertook the degree over five years, alternating between full-time and part-time study while working at the Centre.

*'By being a student  
you become familiar  
with their world.'*

'The degree is particularly useful now in my capacity as student support officer, as the students are following me on my education trip,' explains Carol.

'It's good to be acquainted with the University as a student, because you can forget about that side of it when you're working in an office. By being a student you become familiar with their world; you branch out and see the other side of the fence.' Carol has been working at the Aboriginal Education Centre since 1983 and is one of the foundation staff members.

Dr Dianne Snow, Aboriginal studies lecturer, has only been back at the University for a couple of months. Prior to this she lectured at the University of Technology,

Sydney and before that at the University of Auckland.

As a student at Wollongong, Dianne studied English literature and education for her Bachelor of Arts (honours) and then completed a PhD in education research. She says, 'When I left Wollongong to go to Auckland, I said that I only wanted to come back if I could work as part of the Aboriginal Centre.'

Obviously very happy to be working there now, her dream is for the AEC to keep its primary function as student support, but also to expand its role into becoming a teaching centre of the University. She would like to see more Aboriginal perspectives incorporated into subjects in all faculties and for these to be taught by Aboriginal people.

Dianne's dreams for the Centre are complemented by those of its Head, Bill Harrison. His vision for the future of Aboriginal education at Wollongong is for a purpose-built Aboriginal Education Centre.

Bill wants this to be a 'keeping place' for exhibits that the public can access, a place for holding Aboriginal artefacts and resources for the community; 'something that the University can boast about, and if it happens in my time here, I'll be very happy.'

## Are you eligible to apply?

### General Conditions

- Grants will be awarded for educational or self-development purposes, or for worthy causes linked to the University community.
- Application may be made by individual Financial Members of the University of Wollongong Alumni Association, by potential alumni of the University (i.e. currently enrolled students) or by organisations which have a link with the University. Please note that alumni are expected to be Financial Members of the Association.
- Applications will be considered on merit by the Association's Board of Management (or its subcommittee). The worthiness of the cause and its relevance to the University and to the Association will be taken into account.
- Application must be made on the appropriate form (available from the Alumni Office), and applicants will be asked to provide evidence of expenditure and the names of referees or other sponsors.
- Where appropriate, grant recipients will be asked to supply an article describing their experience for The Outlook magazine.

The closing date for receipt of applications is **31 July**.

Application forms may be obtained from:

**Alumni Office,  
University of Wollongong,  
Northfields Ave  
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NSW 2522**

Located on level 3  
of the Union Building

Phone (042) 21 3249  
or (042) 21 3169;

Fax (042) 21 4299

## READJUSTING TO LIFE BACK HOME



**Judith Balares-Salamat completed her MA(Hons) in English in 1992. On returning to her home in the Philippines, she experienced some difficulties in re-adapting to her own culture. In this personal account, Judith shares her reactions and emotions as she underwent 'reverse culture shock'.**

Immediately after returning from Australia after two years of study, I resumed teaching in the school where I used to teach before doing my master's degree at Wollongong.

My long-feared apprehensions became a reality: that I might be teaching students way below my level; that I would be an outcast in academe and in the community where I grew up; and that my peers would fail to understand the personal and academic issues that concerned me.

In short, even before I returned and certainly afterwards, I had a hard time re-assimilating to my usual 'world'. A special friend of mine, who had been back in the Solomon Islands for two years prior to my return home, understood my predicament and called it 'reverse culture shock'.

### Different aspects

This 'reverse culture shock' took various forms: physical, emotional and moral. The first problem was the climate. Although it had been summer in Australia when I left, the climate in the Philippines was far too warm and humid for me. I could barely stand the heat and it took some time for me to become re-acclimatised.

I had similar problems adjusting to my academic milieu. The people in my school were not interested in any issues other than people, money and clothes. I disliked seeing my colleagues gossiping, apparently preoccupied with matters that should not be important to academics.

I also felt that my somewhat basic teaching load could not easily be reconciled with the knowledge gained from my

MA. To make matters worse, I missed my computer terribly and hated the very heavy keys of the portable manual typewriter when I prepared test questions. I think this adjustment took a whole two years.

### Finding a resolution

So what I did was to keep myself very busy in order to alleviate my depression. What helped me to get through this difficult period was my commitment to serve young people, and my special friend's encouragement. I organised the English Club and taught English/speech classes for the elementary grades and pre-schoolers on a voluntary basis.

Curiously, and without my even being aware, these activities that I engaged in to escape from my negative feelings, were precisely the ones which would help me return to 'reality'. The reality that I was needed by my students, my school, my community; that I had been sent on a scholarship to study in Australia so that when I came back I could help the Philippines to grow - if not fast, then slowly, if not materially or economically, then culturally at least.

Through the English Club I was able to rediscover my sensibilities in art and culture. With the help of my colleagues and the students themselves, we put on cultural shows, drama presentations and poetry readings. Through these activities the students' horizons were broadened, and indirectly their achievements gave me more confidence and drive to work all the harder with them, and to be less self-centred.

### Acceptance

This two-year period enabled me to grow professionally. From then on my 'angst' lessened. I could now work with a ready smile and could accept the environment that I was in. I continued to occupy myself with activities that would help the students learn.

In the third year after returning home (1994-95) I finally found my direction. I could see the gradual change in my students' consciousness: they knew about the pre-Spanish Philippines, colonisation, environmentalism and much more.

I have also had an opportunity for personal 'exploration'. My life is now blessed with a baby boy born in April last year, following my marriage to that special friend.

### Future direction

Recently I have been doing some teaching in the graduate schools of a couple of nearby universities and have also taken on more responsibility in my college. At last I am able to reconcile the knowledge gained from my master's degree to my students' needs. I feel inspired to further my academic career and have had some writing published. In fact I am currently awaiting approval to begin a PhD in comparative literature at the University of the Philippines.

My two-year exposure to Wollongong's multicultural society and my MA course have become a milestone in my life, and have instilled in me a continuing need for cultural appreciation. I wish to contribute to the development of the Philippines through more programs focusing on the appreciation of arts and culture. I think that I can really help our country in this area.

## ALUMNI PROFILES

## ALAN SIU KWAN TAI MBA 1990

## ANNIE LAI FUN WONG BCom 1991

Alan Siu Kwan Tai's connection with the University goes back about eight years. After many years' work in the Hong Kong business sector, he realised that in order to progress in his career he needed a degree such as a MBA to widen his opportunities.

So Alan decided to quit his job and study full-time overseas for his MBA. In mid-1988 he met John Steinke, former Dean of the University's Commerce Faculty, who was in Hong Kong on business. This resulted in Alan being offered a place on Wollongong's two-year MBA program.

Alan's wife, Annie Lai Fun Wong, later also succeeded in gaining a place in the University's Bachelor of Commerce course, majoring in accountancy. So they came to Wollongong in 1989 and spent two years 'studying very hard'. Both Alan and Annie were able to fast track their programs to cut short the normal time required, completing their studies by the end of 1990. Annie gained several high distinctions and won national recognition from the Australian Society of CPAs for her efforts.

Alan says he and Annie were delighted when their first child, a boy they named Steve, was born in Wollongong Hospital in September 1990. He adds that they really appreciated being able to live in one of the 'spacious' units at Kooloobong.

Alan, Annie and Steve returned to Hong Kong at the end of 1990 and managed to purchase a flat to settle down beyond 1997. Alan worked in textile sales again for his former employer, Toray HK, which is a



Hong Kong alumni Annie Lai Fun Wong and Alan Siu Kwan Tai with their son Steve Cheuk Ming, born in Wollongong during their period of study.

subsidiary of Toray Industries Inc, a leading Japanese chemical and textile corporation. In 1991 he was promoted to manager.

Interested by the rapid economic rise of East Asia and the tremendous growth of China in recent years, in 1992 Alan succeeded in gaining entry to a three-year part-time master of economics degree program run by Peking University, which was being held in Hong Kong.

The program involved two years of coursework in Hong Kong, with professors from Beijing delivering the lectures, followed by a research thesis in the third year. Towards the end of the second year, Alan says he was deeply struck by the question of what makes the East Asian countries so successful in economic development.

Many attribute their success to economic policies and their ability to adapt to the changing international economic environment. 'But what appears more interesting to me,' says Alan, 'is whether and how the Eastern culture mattered.' He considered this

as his research topic for his master's thesis, but finally decided it was too broad a topic and was perhaps more suited to a PhD.

In fact, in November 1994 Alan succeeded in enrolling in the Centre of Asian Studies at the University of Hong Kong to pursue full-time doctoral research in *Confucianism and economic development in Eastern Asia*. This was the second time he had quit his job to study full-time!

Alan has been awarded a scholarship for the three years of his doctoral studies, and admits that Annie is shouldering the burden of family expenses. She currently heads the accounting department of a leading local tourist group. Their son, Steve, is now five and is in the final year of kindergarten.

In 1995, even though he had already begun studying towards his PhD at the University of Hong Kong, Alan completed his master's degree from Peking University. He is now concentrating wholeheartedly on his research in Hong Kong, and says that his topic

is an interdisciplinary one covering business administration, economics, sociology, politics and Chinese literature.

So what does the future hold for Alan? He says he hopes to get a post in Hong Kong or on the Chinese mainland through which he can apply what he has learnt on a practical level. He wants to help 'achieve a more relatively equitable and wealthy society, while contributing to the ideal of a peaceful world without severe conflicts between countries'.

Early last year Alan was elected for one year as the postgraduate representative on the Council of the University of Hong Kong. He has found this experience enlightening, and was interested to find that the kind of politics in human affairs familiar in commercial operations also occurs in academic institutions!

'Many people say the next era will belong to Asia,' says Alan. 'I believe this is so, and I foresee that the influence of China in the world arena will be as significant as the role the USA has played over the past century. Australia, in my view, is essentially a part of Asia, geographically. Closer communication between Australia and other countries in Asia, especially China and other East Asian countries, will surely benefit Australia in its future economic growth, and will help understanding of each other's cultures.'

Alan says he and Annie will never forget the good memories of their two years spent in Wollongong. They look forward to returning sometime to enjoy the warmth and the beautiful scenery, and hope one day to show Steve 'his birthplace, which is so lovely'.



## NEW DEANS

### Commerce: Gill Palmer

Professor Gill Palmer took up the position of Dean of the Commerce Faculty late last year, replacing Tom Parry who left to become Chair of the NSW Government Pricing Tribunal.

Professor Palmer was previously head of the Department of Management at this University, a position she had held since 1992.

Before coming to Wollongong, Gill Palmer was the foundation director of the Key Centre in Strategic Management at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), and foundation professor of human resource management and labour relations.

She had also held the positions of deputy head and research director at QUT, as well as positions at Melbourne University and Queensland University, and the City University Business School in London where she also completed her doctorate. Early in her career, Professor Palmer was a senior industrial relations officer with the Commission on Industrial Relations in London.

Her research interests include the implementation of total quality management in Australia, the impact of cultural assumptions on managerial decision-making, employment relations and Australian human resource management.

Professor Palmer comments that changes in university education in recent years have seen a major growth in Commerce education. With this expansion has come new



Professor Gill Palmer, Dean of Commerce

emphasis on the development of research and the need to establish a strong academic reputation.

She believes that Wollongong's Faculty of Commerce has the opportunity to establish an international reputation for the integrated study of the many disciplines within commerce and business, for the benefit of the broadly-based student population and the community at large. The recent growth in the Faculty has led the Dept of Management and Dept of Accounting and Finance to become larger than some of the other faculties on campus. In addition the Faculty is currently discussing the creation of a new department for marketing.

The Commerce Faculty is increasingly successful in gaining funds for research, and has implemented a strategy to improve its research output through the operation of research centres and groups. Indeed a new Research Institute for International Business started work in early May. A new research professor in management has also been appointed as the Faculty's part in the University-wide BHP Institute for Steel Processing and Products.

There is also an increasing number of courses, for example the MBA and Graduate Diplomas and Certificates, which can be offered to commercial clients, thus reducing the Faculty's dependence on government funds. Professor Palmer says she expects the University's operations in our Sydney Centre, in the Middle East (Dubai), and through flexible methods of delivery to off-campus students, to provide a wider market for the education offered in thoroughly integrated, faculty-wide courses.

The Business School has been established as a new unit within the Faculty, and will work with the academic departments to develop this field.

### Engineering: Brendon Parker

Former head of the Gippsland School of Engineering at Monash University, Professor Brendon Parker has recently been appointed Dean of the Faculty of Engineering. He replaces Professor Tibor Rozgonyi.

Brendon Parker began his career as a trainee metallurgist in the steelworks of Stewarts and Lloyds Ltd (UK), whilst studying at the Royal School of Mines at Imperial College in London, where he later also completed his PhD.

In January 1968 he moved to Australia and took up a position in Adelaide as lecturer in physical metallurgy at the then South Australian Institute of Technology.

Professor Parker was appointed to Monash University in 1969 and became a founding member of the Department of



Professor Brendon Parker, Dean of Engineering

Materials Engineering. Here he was heavily involved in establishing the department's experimental facilities, including electron microscopes, x-ray systems and comprehensive facilities for mechanical testing.

At Monash's Gippsland campus, where he became professor in 1993, Brendon Parker played a major role in several important initiatives. These included the development of methodologies for the delivery of engineering courses by distance education, the development of a team management structure, and the establishment of a new company, Gippsland International Ltd, on which he served as a director and deputy chairman of the board. The latter initiative helped establish close links with the local industrial community.

In the face of declining student interest, Professor Parker also instigated a major course review at Monash, with the aim of making the early years more attractive to students and making better use of resources.

His research interests have an orientation to the needs of industry, particularly his work on the effect of processing variables on the structure and

property of alloys. He makes a point of spending some or all of his study leave in industry and has undertaken consultancies for many major companies including Alcoa, BHP, Comalco and the Ford Motor Company. He has published some 120 research papers in journals and the proceedings of international conferences.

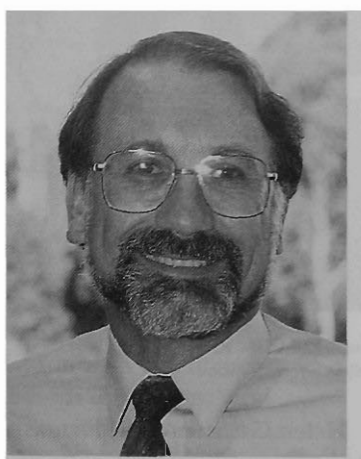
At Wollongong Brendon Parker looks forward to supporting continued growth in the excellent research in the Faculty, and also to implementing change in the undergraduate curriculum to make courses more interesting and challenging for students, and to meet the needs of a changing profession. He would like to see more emphasis on creativity, inventiveness and real problem-solving.

#### Science: Robert Norris

Former head of the School of Chemistry at the University of Sydney and an internationally recognised scholar, with over 70 published refereed articles and book chapters in organic chemistry, Professor Robert Norris has recently been appointed as the new Dean of Science.

Professor Norris holds a Bachelor of Science with first class honours and the university medal in organic chemistry, as well as a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Sydney. He was awarded a Diploma of the Imperial College from the University of London, and a Doctor of Science from the University of Sydney for published work on the reactivity of nitro compounds in aromatic systems.

His research interests are reaction mechanisms, in particular radical-anion



Professor Robert Norris, Dean of Science

initiated processes (substitution and elimination reactions), physical organic chemistry, electron transfer processes and substituent effect on reactivity.

He was involved in a collaborative research effort with Samuel Taylor (Australia) into natural insecticides under the Teaching Company Scheme. He has an interest in ESR spectroscopy and has been a member and chair of the ESR Management Committee, which runs the joint ESR facility between the University of NSW and the University of Sydney.

Robert Norris has a strong interest in community affairs and is an Elder of the Presbyterian Church. He was a District Commissioner from 1987-1994 in the Scouting Movement and was awarded its Medal of Merit in 1994.

Although Professor Norris' position as Dean will principally be an administrative one, he expects to be involved with teaching in the Department of Chemistry in due course, since he considers this to be a very enjoyable part of academic life.

He also believes that one of the principal challenges in being a Dean of Science at a

time when public (and particularly student) perceptions of science are somewhat mixed, is to raise the profile of science and science education at the University of Wollongong in the local, national and international arenas. One difficult requirement will be to continue and enhance the Faculty's research reputation, whilst maintaining the acknowledged 'caring' environment for undergraduate science students.

Professor Norris acknowledges that being a Dean in the current political and financial climate will place him in a most demanding situation. The balancing of academic and management priorities in terms of financial stringency can be expected to test the basic collegial environment of all universities.

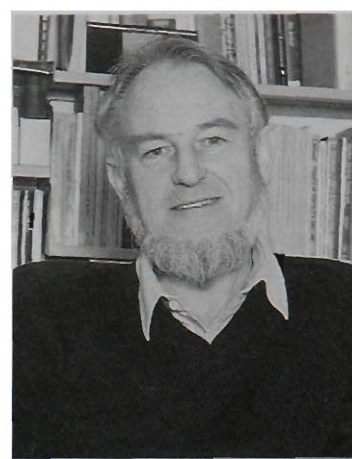
The Deans and Heads of Department are at the very forefront of the management and collegial academic 'divide'. Professor Norris says that his appointment as Dean at Wollongong will provide an exciting challenge to act as a bridge across this potential divide.

#### Murray Wilson retires

Professor Murray Wilson, a most popular Dean of Science for the past four years, retired at the end of last year.

Murray Wilson was appointed as the Foundation Professor of Geography in December 1973, and over the last 22 years he has made a major contribution to the development of that department, two faculties and the University as a whole.

Always a strong defender of academic standards and



Emeritus Professor Murray Wilson, who retired as Dean of Science last year

student welfare, Professor Wilson was appointed as the inaugural Dean of Students in 1986, a position he filled with distinction for five years before taking up his post as Dean of Science.

He will be remembered widely for his incisive, constructive and humorous contributions to debate in various University forums, especially Senate. The dedication and fairness with which he carried out his role as Dean of Science earned him universal respect.

In recognition of his contributions, Professor Wilson has been awarded an Emeritus Professorship, and a student prize in human geography has been established in his name.

Murray is currently maintaining his link with the University as an honorary professorial fellow in the School of Geosciences (formed in 1995 from the amalgamation of the Departments of Geography and Geology), where he will continue to contribute to teaching and research.

## BIOLOGY'S 21ST BIRTHDAY

The Department of Biological Sciences recently celebrated 21 years as a department at the University of Wollongong. With some assistance from the Alumni Office and much hard work by departmental staff, the party on 17 February was a huge success.

Many past and present staff and students gathered in the Union Hall for a dinner and dance, and just a few speeches. Duncan Brown, Helen Garnett and Rob Whelan each recounted memorable events from different stages in the Department's history.

The Department's development was likened - somewhat appropriately - to that of a marsupial: a long gestation period, much of which is spent in rapid development but still tied to the mother in the pouch, before complete independence is gained.



From left: Mat O'Mullane, Richard Scarborough, Phil Glass, Raellie Smith, Fiona Beynon, Carl Gosper and Jack Baker (seated) in a festive mood.

Dr Jim Campbell effectively ran Biology at Wollongong from the early 1960s as the sole staff member, a senior tutor. Several people recalled the video-taped lectures from the University of New South Wales, and the practical classes run by Jim.

The first appointments - Duncan Brown as Professor, and Ross Lilley and Tony Hulbert as lecturers - were made in 1974. The first year of the Department as part of the independent University of Wollongong was in 1975.

Helen Garnett recalled some of the events during the years of rapid growth when she was Professor from 1987-92, including a letter she received, via the Vice-Chancellor, requesting payment of \$260 for 'costs incurred' when a stranded Biology Department vehicle held up a coal train on the escarpment!

Rob Whelan identified several features of the Department which showed the development of tradition - a central part of 'coming of age'. The Meat Pie Award is the most obvious icon of tradition.

The Meat Pie Award was established in 1980 by Tom Grant and Tony Hulbert. This award recognises the most outstanding mistake made by a member of staff or a postgraduate student and is awarded at the annual Christmas Party (itself a tradition in the Department). The various exploits from that year are recorded in the citations. Fittingly, Duncan Brown was the inaugural winner!

Rob Whelan pointed out that, while the exploits of staff and postgraduate students were well recorded and frequently recalled, there is much less information on the high (and low) points of undergraduate activities.

He invited all past students to send in brief recollections of their days in the Department and also old photographs. Staff and students are also invited to join the Alumni Association, thereby maintaining the connections between the Department and its graduates.

## UNI CAREERS SERVICE

Careers Service Coordinator,  
Martin Smith

The Careers Service has recently undergone a number of changes, including the appointment of new staff, and some restructuring. This has resulted in Careers now being part of the Student Services Unit, which incorporates Careers, Counselling, Learning Development and a new section, Student Equity.

The Careers Service Coordinator, Martin Smith, was appointed in October last year. Martin's prior role was to establish the Careers Service at the University of Western Sydney, Macarthur, where he implemented a number of innovative programs and services.

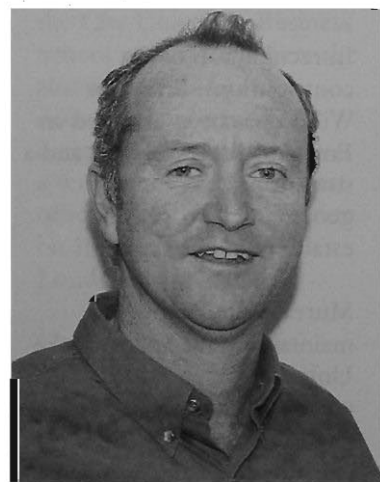
Wollongong has presented new challenges and opportunities, and Martin says he is excited about the possibilities. Already he has written, produced and presented a new video resource, *The Written Edge*, which deals with letters, résumés and application forms. Sponsored by the Australian Institute of Chartered Accountants, the 35-minute video is available for borrowing, or for purchase, through the Careers Service.

Assistance to students is provided through services, programs and resources. These include individual careers counselling, workshops on a variety of

career-related topics, such as writing letters and résumés or job interview skills, and a careers resource centre with information in print, video and computer format.

Recent alumni are also able to access the services offered, whether it be an individual appointment, a workshop, or simply borrowing material. Another professional careers counsellor will soon be joining the Service, and this will facilitate an increase in the provision of services.

Contact the Careers Service by calling (042) 21 3325, or pop in to Level 3 of the Union Building on campus.



The University of Wollongong Careers Service aims to assist students in developing career plans as well as strategies to implement those plans. In other words, it helps students to figure out where they would like to go in the workplace, and how they can get there.



## EXTERNAL RELATIONS STRENGTHENED

Restructuring of some sections of the University's Administration has resulted in the recent establishment of an External Relations Division, to strengthen the University's relations with the national and international communities.

This new division brings together the units handling domestic and international marketing with the Alumni Office, the Friends of the University and the University's fundraising arm, the Foundation.

Heading this division is its new director, Eric Meadows, who was previously Director of the University's International Office. Three managers coordinating Marketing, International and Community Relations now

report to him, as well as the Alumni Executive Officer. A Protocol Officer has also been appointed to work with the Director in coordinating high profile visits to the University.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton commented, 'This move is in response to the the University's heightened role in both the national and international communities in recent years. It will strengthen the interface between the University and the community and allow for a more coordinated and responsive approach.'

'Eric Meadows had extensive experience with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as well as the Department of Employment,

Education and Training before coming to Wollongong in 1989.

'Since then he has established our International Office and made Wollongong one of the most successful universities in developing overseas links and attracting international students.'

'This is a challenging time to be taking up a role such as this,' said Eric. 'Universities in Australia must demonstrate their relevance to the community and their effectiveness in developing skills that are appropriate to the nation's needs.'

'We have a lot to offer. It will be an exciting task delivering the message here and overseas.'



Eric Meadows, Director of the University's new External Relations Division.

## GRADUATION PLAQUES



Members of the University's alumni may purchase a personalised testamur plaque, in gold metal and mounted on a polished rosewood base, or framed in matching gold or silver. This superb plaque provides a unique representation of your achievement.

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## WOMEN AND MIGRATION

**Previously Director of Research at the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, Dr Robyn Iredale has been undertaking research at the University's Centre for Multicultural Studies for the past six years. In early June she gave the opening paper at the Second Women in Migration Conference held in Sydney. Her paper, reproduced below, touches on a number of issues concerning immigrant women in Australia.**

Fifty years of post-war migration has brought 2.5 million females to Australia. As well as these women, there are their daughters born in Australia who have come to be so important in the process of change.

In August 1992 there were 1.1 million women in Australia (16 per cent of the total) who had been born in non-English speaking background (NESB) countries (ABS 1993, p.9). This represented a 40 per cent increase since 1981, although the number of women born in the Philippines or Hong Kong increased by 400 per cent from 1981 to 1991.

Women differ in their experiences in terms of how they came to migrate to Australia. Refugee women experience a range of additional problems both in transit and on arrival, compared with women who migrate alone or with a partner as a family or skilled migrant.

Immigrant women from NESB countries are more

concentrated in some states than others. They account for 21 per cent of all women in Victoria, eight per cent in Queensland and five per cent in Tasmania.

Italian-born women are still the largest group born in a non-English speaking country, comprising 7 per cent in 1991. The next largest groups are those born in the former

immigrants and other groups in our community, such as Aborigines, women and people with disabilities.

While immigrant women have been increasingly involved in the consultation process, like all women in Australia they are seriously under-represented in decision-making structures.



Yugoslavia, Greece, Germany and Vietnam.

On the whole, the overseas-born female population is older than the Australian-born cohort. Women aged 35 years and over account for 65 per cent of the total overseas-born female population, compared with 42 per cent for Australian-born women.

### Equity

The concept of equity is difficult to define and even more difficult to put into action and then measure. Equity has been widely used in government and other reports in relation to

In 1991, 6.7 per cent of legislators and government-appointed officials were of first or second generation non-English speaking backgrounds, compared with their population share of 25 per cent. The situation is getting worse, not better. They are also under-represented in the Public Service, on committees and councils concerned with economic decision-making, and as judges, magistrates, mediators and police officers.

### Quality of life

This can be considered by looking at health. In 1994, in response to the National

Women's Health Policy released in 1989, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) produced *Women's Health* (1994).

The report shows that compared to Australian-born women, overseas-born women as a whole: still had their own teeth in a much higher proportion, consumed less alcohol and cigarettes, and

Dr Robyn Iredale is pictured with her joint research report about serial sponsorship. Photo courtesy of The Illawarra Mercury.

experienced lower mortality, although they had a higher prevalence of long-term conditions (74.5 per cent compared with 66.5 per cent for Australian-born women).

The ABS report concluded that health issues which confront Australian-born women also affect women born overseas, but that their health problems are compounded by language problems, cultural differences, occupational segmentation, unemployment and social isolation. Levels of pre-migration and/or settlement

stress, exposure to industrial hazards and lack of suitable health services are additional factors.

## Employment

While other groups of women have experienced increasing levels of labour force participation, women from NESB countries have demonstrated falling rates from 46 per cent in 1978 to 44 per cent in 1994. They have increasingly retreated from the labour market.

A larger proportion of women in New South Wales from non-main-English speaking countries (MESCs) have higher qualifications than women from MESCs (including Australia).

However, evidence in relation to women who arrive in Australia with overseas qualifications demonstrates that they are even more disadvantaged than men. Fewer women apply for recognition of their qualifications, as they take time to settle their families and they are not as able to access training and bridging programs.

Women from non-MESCs continue to be concentrated in the textile, clothing, footwear and processing industries. Many women are outworkers. These women work long hours without the protection of award coverage and union membership. The current Senate Inquiry into outwork is finding that women sometimes earn \$1 for a garment that sells for \$500.

English language proficiency is a key issue for immigrant women in obtaining work and being able to advance in their employment. Evidence shows that immigrant women are under-represented in pre-

employment English training and English in the Workplace programs.

They are disadvantaged in general labour market training programs, both because of their lack of English proficiency and because they are less likely to be looking for work. The absence of adequate, appropriate childcare also continues to be an issue both for women wanting to undertake training and for those in employment.

## Access

Access is perhaps the most crucial aspect of all. Without access to services (eg housing, health, language, education, employment) there is no equality.

Immigrant women's own attempts to become involved in political and policy-making processes have proved very successful. Groups such as the Association for Non-English Speaking Background Women, the Immigrant Women's Speakout, the Centre for Filipino Concerns and the Filipino Women's Working Party, to name a few, have become extremely active in the last ten years.

Other immigrant women have taken their place as leaders in women's resource centres, in working women's centres, as advisers to Catholic archbishops and so on. They are now perceived as groups and individuals who possess expertise and information that is vital for policy-makers, researchers and politicians. The political struggle that these women have had to become 'legitimised' has yet to be documented.

## Love and the law

The changing nature of Australian families is one of

the most profound demographic changes of recent decades.

The later age at marriage, a higher percentage who do not marry at all, first births at later ages, the drop in total fertility rates, the increase in divorce, the rising prevalence of de facto relationships, the changing nature of households, the increase in non-marital fertility and many other changes are being felt.

Close family relationships are particularly affected by shifting or changing values - between partners and between parents and children. Changing roles, women beginning to take up paid work, and unemployment (especially of males) affect relationships.

The relationship between immigrant women and the law has received increased attention in the last few years, largely due to the leadership provided by Justice Elizabeth Evatt. *Equality before the Law: Justice for Women* (The Law Reform Commission 1994) stressed the greater possibility of injustice for immigrant women because of both their gender and race.

It called for increased access to legal aid, the need for specialist services (including refuges) and revisions to immigration law to protect women sponsored as spouses/fiancées from overseas. The issue of the exploitation of migrant women was prominent at the UN's 4th Conference on the Status of Women held in Beijing in 1995.

Domestic violence in intercultural or intracultural families has also received some attention. In particular, *Shattered Dreams* (Easteal 1996) and *Serial Sponsorship:*

*Immigration Policy & Human Rights* (Iredale, Innes & Castles 1992) have highlighted the problems that can emerge when either proper processes are not in place to protect the rights of immigrant women, or the isolation that they experience prevents them from escaping from domestic violence.

The possibility of unlimited sponsorships, and the insufficient checking of spouse/fiancée sponsorship applications, still need to be addressed.

The question of domestic violence in immigrant families has barely been touched. Other issues of street-frequenting immigrant or second generation young people and other forms of family breakdown, such as we discovered in a recent study on 'astronaut' families, also need to be addressed. ('Astronaut' families are those where one or both parents return to Hong Kong, either temporarily or permanently, after migration to Australia.)

## Conclusion

The situation facing immigrant women in Australia is clearly the subject of much more discussion now than it has been in the past. The efforts of many women, and a few men, to draw attention to particular issues have piggybacked on the overall increase in attention given to women in Australian society.

Immigrant groups, particularly women, and their advocates must ensure that they speak out and highlight their issues, and if necessary engage in political activity so that they cannot be ignored.



# Being an Alumni Member has its benefits.

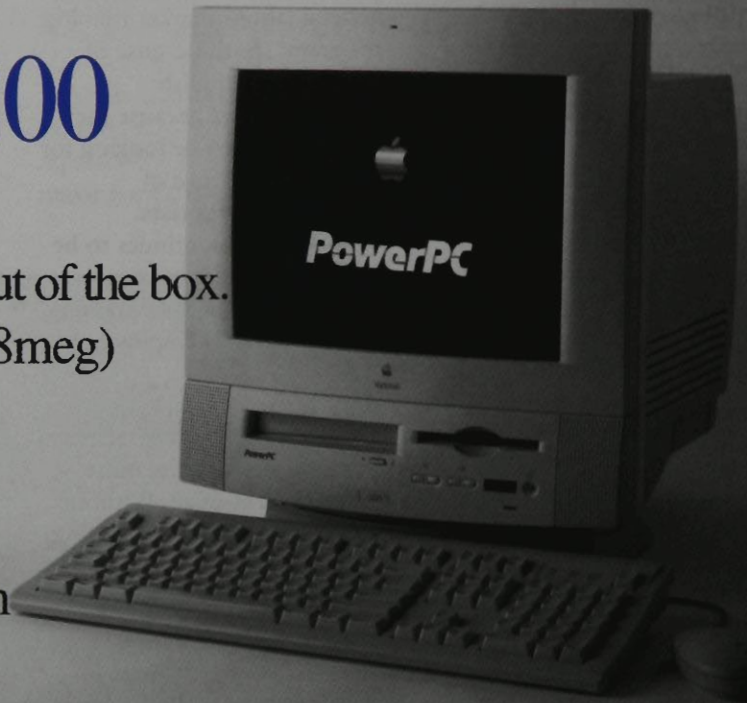
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